

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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"Ye Are The Branches"

An Address to Christian Workers
By Andrew Murray

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."—John 15:1-5.

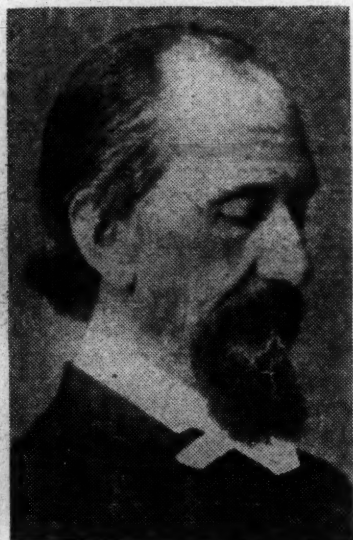
Everything depends on our being right ourselves in Christ. If I want good apples, I must have a good apple tree; and if I care for the health of the apple tree, the apple tree will give me good apples. And it is just so with our Christian life and work. If our life with Christ be right, all will come right. There may be the need of instruction and suggestion and help and training in the different departments of the work; all that has its value. But in the long run, the greatest essential is to have the full life in Christ; in other words, to have Christ in us, working through us. I know how much there is often to disturb us, or to cause anxious questionings; but the Master has such a blessing for everyone of us, and such perfect peace and rest, and such joy and strength, if we can only come into and be kept in, the right attitude towards Him.

I will take my text from the parable of the vine and the branches, in John 15:5: "I am the vine, ye are the branches." Especially these words: "Ye are the branches."

What a simple thing it is to be a branch, the branch of a tree, or the branch of a vine! The branch grows out of the vine, or out of the tree, and there it lives and

grows, and in due time, bears fruit. It has no responsibility except just to receive from the root and stem, sap and nourishment. And if we only by the Holy Spirit knew our relationship to Jesus Christ, our work would be changed into the brightest and most heavenly thing upon earth. Instead of

(Continued on page 9)



Andrew Murray

Prize Winner in Second Annual \$1,000 Evangelistic Sermon Contest

Vengeance Belongs to God

by Dr. Tom Malone

Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pontiac, Michigan

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."—Rom 12:17-21.

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord."—Rom. 12:19.

This is a most heart-searching and thought-provoking portion of God's Word. The message and truth of this passage needs to be emphasized in Christian circles today. Let me help you to see today this text in its proper setting. The book of Romans is so wonderful. It develops so beautifully the whole plan and scheme of redemption. Let us take a bird's-eye view of the whole book.

The first eight chapters are doctrinal. Chapters 1 through 3 set forth the guilt of a sinner in a manner as probably no other section of the Bible sets it forth.

These three chapters bring both Jew and Gentile to a place of such guilt that they can only stand with shame and weakness, with no argument and no rebuttal. "Every mouth is stopped and the whole world is guilty before God."

In chapters 4 and 5 the plan of justification is set forth. These chapters answer the age-old question of Job 9:1, "How should man be just with God?" These two chapters show how Abraham was justified by faith apart from works, circumcision or ritual; and then the glorious results of justification are listed. Oh, the depths and riches of His Grace!

Now, the guilty sinner having been saved, chapters 6, 7 and 8 show how God deals with sin in the believer's life, showing the way to sweet peace and victory for God's child.

After chapter 8 there follow three chapters which are paren-

thetical, showing God's dealing with the Jew. And then the whole theme and plan of God for a Christian is taken up again in chapters 12 through 16, which set forth numerous practical exhortations for the believer.

With this setting in mind, notice chapter 12, in which our text is found. This chapter sets forth a fourfold relationship of a believer: (Continued on page 11)



Rev. Tom Malone

Billy Graham OPENS IN LONDON

A Report From the English Magazine, "The Christian," Describes the Crowded Arena—Hundreds Turned Away, Many Decisions, and Billy Graham's Message at Harringay Arena Monday, March 1

Dr. Charles T. Cook is editor of THE CHRISTIAN magazine in England, a weekly record of evangelical witness and missionary effort. In this magazine dated Friday, March 5, is a full account of the opening of the Billy Graham campaign in London, written by an unnamed representative of the magazine, possibly Dr. Cook. The matter is of such wide interest that we beg the leniency of our British contemporary for quoting the fine article in full. We know that it will be of intense interest to American Christians. The article follows.

WHEN DR. BILLY GRAHAM came on the platform at Harringay Arena on Monday evening it was to face an audience that filled every one of the 11,000 seats, while others stood where allowed. Many hundreds could not get into the vast building at all. A very large proportion of the congregation consisted of young men and women, but many Christian workers were there, including well-known ministers and lay men and women.

Boundless Possibilities

From every point of view it was

an auspicious opening of an evangelistic crusade fraught with limitless possibilities of blessing to our great Metropolis and perhaps far beyond its circumference.

Every unreserved seat was occupied by 7:00 p.m. and all the reserved places filled by 7:15. It is probably true to say that never in the history of evangelism in this country had the Press been so widely represented. All the several dozen seats reserved for them at Press tables were filled and additional chairs had to be brought

forward for others. There must have been fully a score of camera men, and three newsreel cameras on tripods were mounted before the platform.

In fairness to Dr. Graham and the Executive Committee it should be stated that they have no power to prevent Press photographers being present. When he rose to speak Dr. Graham made an appeal that no one should move about and that no more flash-light pictures should be taken. This request was heeded, and thereafter there was much less distraction. Dr. Graham thanked the Pressmen for their friendly cooperation and expressed his pleasure at their presence. In the United States photographs can only be taken at a distance from the speakers.

The Choir

About 2,000 members of the choir assembled and many must have been most agreeably surprised to discover how remarkably well they had responded to the tuition of Mr. Cliff Barrows after only two rehearsals. The timing

(Continued on page 7)

Hugh Pyle Comes To Sword

Brilliant Young Florida Pastor, Former Newspaper Man, Becomes Evangelist, Assistant to Editor of THE SWORD

By Editor John R. Rice

With genuine joy we announce to SWORD OF THE LORD readers the coming of Rev. Hugh Pyle to Wheaton and a nation-wide evangelistic work as assistant to the editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.



Rev. Hugh F. Pyle

Brother Pyle was in newspaper work when God called him to preach. He has now had three successful pastorates. I knew him first when he was pastor of Brent Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida. Under his leading, the church built a new church building, grew a great Sunday School, and regular crowds filled the auditorium, seating, I suppose, 800. He had a fine record here as a constructive, soul-winning, Bible-preaching pastor. I had the joy of conducting a revival campaign in that strong church when it was under his pastoral leadership.

Two years ago Brother Pyle felt led to go to Panama City. Starting with a congregation of thirty, he has built the church in two years to a solid membership of some 500, has won and baptized

(Continued on page 6)

For Young People . . .

Miracles of Science

By the late Arthur I. Brown, M.D.

Enthralling and Curious Facts of Nature Showing the Miraculous Scientific Evidences of God's Hand in Creation. 39 Wonderful Chapters.

CHAPTER XXI

God And Nature

During several recent broadcasts we have been directing our attention to the wonders of plant life. It has been a fascinating study and with this talk we shall conclude for the present our meditations on the miracles of the vegetable kingdom.

We might as well review briefly some of the things we have learned. Our survey has been very hurried and incomplete because in our walk through God's garden, we have simply glanced here and there for a moment at the beauties and marvels which have unveiled themselves before our eyes.

We have seen the botanical classification of plant life as it is written down in Genesis, and have found it to agree with our modern scientific ideas. We have thought of the almost infinite variety of stalk and leaf of flower and fruit among hundreds of thousands of species. We have seen the curious devices for getting food for growth and seed production. We have watched the way Nature provides for the wide dispersal of seeds across the earth, her mechanical devices of parachute and rocket gun antedating our modern discoveries by thousands of years.

We have gazed with awe at the downy beds in which lie the baby seeds, protected from dangers that would bring death and destruction. We have marveled at the mysteries of photosynthesis, and the skill of the chlorophyll chemists in their tiny leaf laboratories, turning carbon and water into all kinds of foods for the benefit of mankind.

One insistent question keeps thrusting itself forward: What is the explanation of the mystery of the operations undertaken and carried through so easily and accurately by these humble life forms? We have come to the conclusion that the most learned scientist in the universe is unable to offer up a satisfactory solution to our problem. These tiny particles of living protoplasm guard their secret well.

Many things we would like to know. For instance, whence originates that spark of life that brings super-human power and wisdom to these cells that divide and redivide with unerring precision.



How do they build for themselves their snug and secluded cradles and at the same time extract a steady stream of nourishment from soil, water, and air, snatching at passing sun rays for the indispensable light without which nothing would be possible? We watch them bring sugars and starches from carbon and water, and stand amazed as we behold them delivering their products through leaf-stalk and branch to the luscious fruit somewhere along the line.

Who can cause us to understand anything about this? To say that it is nothing more than the working of a Law of Nature, is to use words without meaning. What is NATURE? Is it an entity? Does it possess Personality? Where does Nature dwell? Has it ever been seen? Wherever it is, how does it convey knowledge of this "Law" to millions of cells in all parts of the globe? How do the cells so instantly and perfectly understand the instructions, as they are delivered? Where do cells get the power to put into immediate operation, the innumerable details, taking every step in this very complicated process in the correct order? This order seems to be predetermined in every case. The slightest mistake would ruin the whole result, and yet there is never a misstep.

Is there a school where these cells may learn the mysterious plan whereby an infinitely small particle of protoplasmic life may multiply itself into countless billions of other cells, each cell knowing as much as its predecessors, and without excitement or confusion, completing the amazing work to a perfect end?

Who organized this school? Who is Headmaster? Where are the sessions held? What language is used? How long do the courses of study last? Are there any graduation exercises?

These and a hundred other questions press into our curious minds and demand an answer. We make inquiry from college and university, and interrogate world-renowned authorities in all the sciences, but to our anxious questioning they have no answer. The only sound we hear is the echo of our earnest query.

The same quest for the Source of wisdom is depicted in the 28th chapter of Job, where the writer draws attention to many of man's accomplishments, and to his fruitless search for the Prime Cause of it all. Job is interested in the acknowledged fact that man has been able to perform many notable deeds. He has penetrated some distance into the earth. He has brought up silver and gold and iron and copper through the deep shafts he has constructed into the interior.

Man's strength has enabled him almost to overturn mountains "by the roots" as he cuts out channels among the rocks. He can build dams which restrain the mighty torrents of water and makes many discoveries. But—and this is the mystery—"Where shall Wisdom be found and where is the place of understanding?"

After failing to discover the secret anywhere on earth, man decides that perhaps he can buy the information. So he estimates his financial resources, only to be told:

"It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or with the sapphire. . . . Yes, the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold."

Seeing that the earth refuses to disclose anything, man decides to ask the ocean. "O mighty sea, can you tell me where Wisdom dwells?" But again:

"The deep saith, it is not in me; and the sea saith, it is not with me."

A puzzled and disappointed earth-dweller has just one more place to go—the place of Death. In this region of doom and destruction is there any knowledge of Wisdom? What is the answer? Destruction and Death say: "WE HAVE HEARD A RUMOR THEREOF WITH OUR EARS."

This reluctant admission does not, of course, tell all that Death knows. "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is Death," we read, and this grudging acknowledgment and this reluctant admission that there may be a God are what we might expect from the last enemy.

But now God, Himself, steps into the discussion to make the great Revelation and to answer our question. So we read in Job 28:23-28:

"It is God who understandeth the way thereof, and He knoweth the place thereof. For He looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven. . . . He established it, yea, and searched it out. And unto man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, THAT IS WISDOM; and to depart from evil is understanding."

And there is the answer, my friend. There is a God, a God who understands, a God who created heaven and earth, the Source of all things in the universe, inanimate and living, from starry worlds of immeasurable size to the microscopic infusorium with its infinite variety of accomplishments. This is He who made oceans and lakes and rivers, filling them with varied forms of life. This is the God who placed on the earth the thousands of forms of living things; birds, insects, animals, and man. He made the trees—and most amazing of all—His enemies slew Him on a tree. The Almighty Creator, Jesus Christ, hangs suspended between heaven and earth, helpless, and forsaken by man and God, because the sins of the world were all piled upon Him. He died for us, and—thank God—rose again, Conqueror over death and the grave, that we, through faith in Him, might have everlasting life.

This God, by His own affirmation, is a Gardener and Husbandman. He speaks of His children as: "The branch of my planting, the work of my hands, trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord." (Isa. 60:21 . . . 61:3.) This planting is more precious to Him than the nineteen different kinds of trees mentioned in the Bible, and all the other products of His omnipotence.

Jesus often spoke of His followers, as trees and branches of the Vine, and mentioned their fruit-bearing. He tells us that we reveal ourselves by the kind of



He made the trees—and most amazing of all—His enemies slew Him on a Tree.

fruit we bear. "There is no good tree that bringeth forth corrupt fruit; nor again a corrupt tree that bringeth forth good fruit. For each tree is known by its fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes." (Luke 6:43, 44.)

Let us for a moment think of ourselves as apple tree Christians. You are bearing fruit. What sort is it? Crab apples, sour and astringent and distasteful? Has anyone ever tasted your fruit, and gone away with a wry face, saying: "If that is the fruit of Christianity, I want none of it?"

Or, are you bearing Northern Spies, luscious and tasty? If this be your tree, I'm sure some have admired your product, and have tasted. Then, they may have asked

you for a graft to put into their own tree. You have directed them to Jesus Christ, and now they belong to our family.

It's an exciting experience to be planted by the Lord and to have the privilege of bearing some fruit for Him. He provides us with everything—the water of life, the breath of life, and the sunshine, without which there can be no results.

Are your roots planted deep in Him today? Or are you buried in the world and worldly things, without any hope for this world or the next? Why not take the exciting step into God's garden and let Him give you new life and joy and peace?

(From the book, MIRACLES OF SCIENCE, Now out of print.)

PREACHERS' SUMMER SCHOOL

Two Weeks' Course for Preachers at Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, July 20-30. Strong Classes in Soul Winning, Sunday School Building, Visitation, In Revival, in Homiletics, in Prophecy, in Bible; for Bible Institute and Seminary Credit. Free Rooms for Pastors or Christian Workers and Their Wives

By the Editor

We are glad to announce a special Pastors' Course in summer school at the Tennessee Temple Schools in Chattanooga.

This school for preachers will coincide with the second semester of the regular summer school. As vice-president of the Tennessee Temple Seminary, I join with Dr. Lee Roberson and his whole administrative and teaching staff in an invitation for preachers to come for a refresher course in Bible, in evangelism, homiletics, etc.

By beginning on Tuesday, July 20, preachers may come from their churches in plenty of time; and by ending on Friday, July 30, they may get back to their churches for the following Sunday, and thus will have two weeks of real study.

The lessons can be taken for Bible School or seminary credit, in which case strict attendance records and written work and tests will be required. Or the course may be audited by preachers who sit in class and study with us, but do not wish to take the examinations for credit.

A Sample Daily Program

First of all, let me give you the proposed daily schedule:

- 8:00—Fellowship breakfast
- 8:30—Radio broadcast
- 9:10—First class for preachers—Homiletics
- 10:30—Chapel service
- 11:05—Dr. John R. Rice's class in "How To Have A Revival"
- 12:30—Noon meal in college dining hall
- 1:15—Dr. Lee Roberson's class in "Sunday School Building, Visitation." (The remainder of the afternoon for sightseeing, rest, meditation, etc.)
- 5:30—Evening meal
- 7:00—Visits to: Union Gospel Mission (rescue mission); a typical chapel of Highland Park Baptist Church; Camp Joy; Mid-week Prayer Service; Highland Park Visitation Program.

A Letter from President Lee Roberson

I have from Dr. Lee Roberson, president of Tennessee Temple Schools, pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church, the following letter which he has written to pastors:

Dear Brother Pastor:

Perhaps you have felt the need for a refresher course in Bible, evangelism, homiletics. You did not feel that you could afford to be away from your

work for a long period, but a brief time of helpful study and inspiration would suit you to a "T."

We are happy to announce that we have just what you want and need here at Tennessee Temple Schools. A two-week session especially designed for pastors, evangelists, and other Christian workers will be held July 20 to 30 inclusive.

Great times of blessing will come from *Evangelism*, taught by Dr. John R. Rice; *Soul winning, Visitation, Sunday School Building*, taught by Dr. Lee Roberson; *Prophecy*, taught by Dr. Mark Cambron; *Homiletics*, taught by Rev. Douglas Gravens; a study of *Ephesians*, by a Bible teacher to be selected.

Featured in these two weeks are:

FREE ROOMS for pastors or Christian workers and their wives. Motels or tourist homes are available nearby at low cost for those bringing their children.

FINE FOOD served at exceptionally low cost in our dining hall.

GOOD FELLOWSHIP with Bible-believing Christians in the warm, spiritual atmosphere of Tennessee Temple Schools.

In addition to the inspiration of the Bible studies, there will be a concert of great music, scenic tours of the Chattanooga area, visits to Camp Joy for underprivileged children, Union Gospel Mission, a typical chapel of Highland Park Baptist Church, midweek prayer service and visitation program of Highland Park Baptist Church.

Plan now to be with us for the full time. Send in your reservation now.

Sincerely,

Lee Roberson

You will note that Tennessee Temple is offering free room to preachers and their wives. There is no adequate space for children with present facilities. However, motels, hotels, or tourist homes are available nearby at moderate costs. The meals in the dining hall are served at exceptionally low cost. I suggest that pastors who wish to attend this refresher course in Bible school and seminary classes at Tennessee Temple July 20-30, please write now to make reservation for rooms. Address: Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, Tennessee.



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, D.D., Litt.D., Editor and Publisher
EVANGELIST BILL RICE, Associate Editor
GRACE RICE MACMULLEN, Circulation Manager
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Preaching ~ Power ~ Promotion



"... the word of the Lord... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."—Zech. 4:6

By Dr. D. A. (Scotchie) McCall
Minister of Revival Promotion,
Sword of the Lord Foundation

I. "Give Us This Day"—Matt. 6:11.

1. Two weeks until the Christian world observes Easter Sunday. Every Lord's Day is Resurrection Day to spiritual Christians.

Some will observe this day with new hats, new dresses, new suits, gad-about trips, and feasting. Many will make it a day of worship with thanksgiving.

Let us ask God to "give us this day" prepared hearts for a proper appreciation of the deeper meaning of this season.

2. A staff member, Mrs. Esther Johnson, has a birthday next week, on the sixth. She serves in the retail department. Ask God to make this day a good day for her along with the coming year.

3. Spring revivals are upon us. Join us in asking God to "give us this day" real spiritual revival in our hearts and in His churches.

4. Eighteen weeks until we pay \$44,000 as the final payment on the permanent building property. Lord, "give us this day" heart-searching as we decide our part!

5. Ask God to "give us this day" a developed sense of appreciation for good Christian literature. May is letter month. Dr. Rice is having more to say about it.

6. Pray for Holy Spirit power

in these revival meetings led by Sword Staff evangelists:

Evangelist Bill Rice

March 30-April 11, with Rev. Fred W. Julius, First Baptist Church, Hastings, Minnesota.

Evangelist Lloyd Bardowell

April 9-18, with Rev. Alfred Thornton, Calvary Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Evangelist Joe B. Rice

March 30-April 11, with Rev. Harold Small, Gray, Maine.

Evangelist James Threlfall

March 29-April 11, with Rev. Kenneth E. Mitchell, West Chicago Baptist, Detroit, Michigan.

Evangelist Eddie Wagner

April 6-18, with Rev. Donald M. Randolph, Immanuel Baptist Church, Monticello, Kentucky.

Evangelist J. Oscar Wells

April 6-18, with Rev. Ed Ulrich, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

II.

Pray For Us in His Work

From March 28 to April 11, I will be in revival at Evans, Kentucky—in the mountains. Ask God to give us mountaintop experiences (Ps. 121). Rev. A. L. Walker is the fine pastor.

Then, April 18-25, I am in revival at Citronelle, Alabama, with Dr. Homer Roberson—a friend of years. I have been with him before in revivals. He was on my mission board. He furnishes constructive leadership.

From there I fly to Superior, Wisconsin, for the great Evangelical Pastors' Bible Conference. Rev. Ralph Claybaugh is the very fine secretary. The time is April 26-30. Those in that area will want to pray for spiritual blessing, and plan for full attendance upon the meetings.

III.

In Ogallala, Nebraska, we enjoyed fellowship with Pastor Dunwiddie and the few people we met.

At Lexington, Nebraska, Pastor Blood has a spiritual and growing fellowship. He has five fine youngsters.

At Broken Bow, Nebraska, several pastors and people were present with dynamic Phillip Gardner, pastor, who had "sparked" our visit in that section.

Pastor John Groen and his folks gave us a warm welcome in a service in Burlington, Iowa.

All these brethren and their families lead in a fine work.

It is good to be "home" after a great trip for Him! Doxology!

IV.

Everywhere Preaching the Word

I am just in the office from a great trip South and West, preaching the Gospel in five states, in ten churches, to a seminary, two colleges, two pastors conferences, and a great Bible conference in a church of over 5,000 members. Doxology! I saw several dozen persons walk the aisles for Him, about two hundred fifty consecrations, and some church problems eased.

Lots of people take THE SWORD in most of the churches visited—some have been personally helped by the ministry of Dr. Rice—many were hungry to hear more of the Gospel.

I saw some churches bubbling with Gospel activity, while a few were struggling for a place in His service.

We travelled nearly 7,500 miles, seeing lots of people. We have had real occasion for seeing the great need for a warm, spiritual ministry all over this country.

WANTED:

Strong Bible Sermons on Some Phase of

1. Socialism—Communism Versus the Bible.
2. Worldliness—Movies, Dance, Tobacco, Lodges, etc.
3. Science and the Bible—Apologetics.
4. Catholicism, Cults and Heresies.
5. Modernism—Denial of the Virgin Birth, Deity of Christ, Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, Blood Atonement, etc.

\$1,600 IN PRIZES FOR "SERMONS ON VITAL PUBLIC ISSUES" DUE JUNE 1, 1954

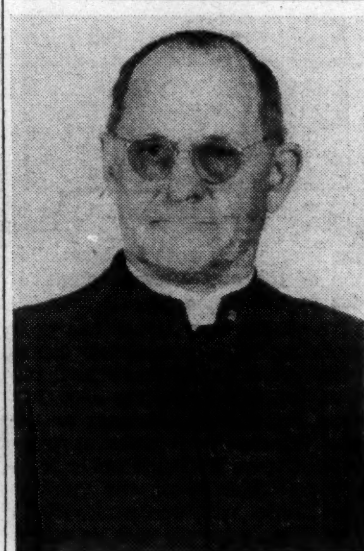
THE SWORD OF THE LORD is so anxious to publish great sermons by the greatest preachers and Bible teachers in America, life-transforming sermons on VITAL PUBLIC ISSUES, that we are glad to offer \$1,600 in awards for these sermons in a contest which is to end June 1. Here are the prizes offered:

1. One first prize, \$250, for the best sermon in any category.
2. Four other first prizes in other categories of \$150 each.
3. Five second prize sermons, \$100 each.
4. Five third prize sermons, \$50 each.

We reserve the right to withhold prizes in any category if the sermons offered are not judged worthy of publication in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, or to give additional prizes if deserved in the subject which has the most good sermons.

Carelessly-Prepared Messages Will Not Do!

Let us say as strongly as pos-



Dr. Menno J. Brunk

In THE SWORD OF THE LORD for February 26 we published a scholarly, serious article on *The RSV Examined*. The article was written by a committee of ministers, appointed, because of their spiritual leadership and scholarship, by the Mennonites of Virginia.

The chairman of the committee, Dr. Menno J. Brunk, has his A. B. degree from Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, the Th.B., and Th.M. degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Th.D. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. For his Doctor's degree, he majored in New Testament literature and exegesis. For fifteen years he taught advanced courses in New Testament Greek in the Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Rev. George R. Brunk, another member of the committee, is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia.

Rev. I. Otis Yoder has taught for several years at Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg, Virginia. At present he is pursuing graduate studies at Northern Baptist Seminary and will receive his Doctor's degree this spring.

I feel it important to remind our readers that the most scholarly and spiritual Christians object to the new RSV of the Bible. That translation is not accurate, is not reliable. Dr. Brunk well says in a personal letter: "I agree with you, that we are not after the praises of men, but want the Truth to prevail, and we want the Word of God, as given by inspired men of God, and not tainted with modernism."

sible that cheap, hastily-written, carelessly-prepared sermons are not likely to win in this contest. A topical sermon giving one's opinions but without facts and without scriptural proof will not be adequate. There is a tremendous lack of strong Bible preaching applied to Christian life and problems. We want to encourage that kind of preaching.

1. It must be scriptural. Either make the sermon an exposition of a Bible passage, or make the sermon on a theme honestly presented in the text, and then with all the sub-points proven by Scriptures.

2. Make the sermon factual. No one can do any good writing on communism who doesn't give accurate quotations and facts about what communism teaches, what communists do, what communism means. No one can adequately preach on modernism who does not give documented facts, quotations, etc.

3. There must be an urgent application to Christian life. We want no dead, dry lectures, but Spirit-filled, life-transforming sermons. The sermons should set out to get definite results in the lives of readers.

4. Make the sermon colorful, interesting! Use illustrations. Rewrite and correct it to make it smooth, interesting reading. Take time to do it right! If your sermon is to be read in 100,000 homes or more, it ought to be good!

Rules of the Contest

1. Sermons in this contest must be original, hitherto unpublished. Do not send us somebody else's sermon. Do not send a sermon already in print.

2. Sermons may be approximately 3,000 to 6,000 words in length with no definite limits demanded.

3. Manuscripts to be typewritten, one side of paper only, on regular typewriter paper, 8½ by 11 inches. *Typing is to be double spaced*... margins of at least one inch on each side... name and address of author on first page of sermon. Accompany with letter telling author's denomination, education, ministry, books written, etc.

5. The author must be responsible for quotations. Quote the Scriptures accurately, check every word. Quotations from writings of others must be accurate. Bible quotations to be from an accurate translation of Bible, like King James, American Standard, or Williams translations, not from R. S. V., Moffats, Phillips, etc. When quotations are used to prove a point, tell where they are found.

6. All manuscripts must be in hand at the Sword of the Lord office, Wheaton, Illinois, on or before June 1, when contest closes.

7. Let it be clearly understood that we do not expect any one sermon to cover any one of the five topics mentioned. For example, a sermon on the movies probably could not find space to deal with all other forms of worldliness. A sermon showing that Christ, not Mary, is the only mediator between God and men, could not deal with all of the other heresies of Catholicism, nor of other cults. A sermon showing the historical accuracy of the Bible might not be able to give all the scientific evidence for the accuracy of the Bible. Select one phase of a subject, study it hard, pray much, and then ask God to help you write a life-changing message.

For mimeographed rules of the contest, write the Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

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WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS
By the Editor

EVANGELIST DAN VESTAL, Seminary Hill, Box 6214, Fort Worth, Texas, held a revival campaign in the Vanderbilt Baptist Church, January 24-February 7. Rev. Johnny Barrett, pastor, reports that there were 24 professions of faith during the campaign. Singer Bob Bowen assisted Evangelist Vestal. The pastor also reports that the mission work of the church has been expanded as a result of the campaign.

EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD of 4521 Jarboe, Kansas City, Missouri, held a meeting February 16-February 28 with the Springvale congregation, Kansas City, Kansas. Rev. Gale C. Tush, acting pastor. A letter from the pastor tells of twenty-nine souls who were saved, sixty rededications, with four surrendering to preach. And this group, not organized into a church as yet, had fifty-six come forward to become members at the church's organization. Then a letter from the evangelist tells there were 219 in Sunday School the last Sunday of the campaign.

The editor enjoyed brief fellowship with "Del" recently in Wheaton. God bless this good preacher of the Word, this fine evangelist.

EVANGELIST FREDDIE GAGE, Box 306, Decatur, Texas, held a weekend revival, February 26-28 in the East Tyler Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas. Rev. E. B. Brooks, pastor, reports that there were 31 conversions, 21 of whom were baptized and joined the church. Others rededicated their lives to the Lord. Evangelist Gage is assisted by singer Jimmy Snelten.

EVANGELIST RALPH M. DAVIDSON, Box 77, Coffeyville, Kansas, sends a report telling of the Lord's blessing in his 1954 revivals. On January 1, he spoke at the "Go-Yes" Gospel Mission, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where the Lord marvelously worked in the hearts of the people. He has held revivals in: Youngstown, Ohio; Muskogee, Oklahoma; Ames, Oklahoma; Little Rock, Arkansas; Delightful, Ohio; and Akron, Ohio. Evangelist Davidson says, "...Souls have been saved, backsliders restored and sinful conditions broken up..." Future meetings will be held in Knox and Montoursville, Pennsylvania, and Kansas City, Kansas.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST EDDIE WAGNER** conducted an outstanding revival campaign with the South Mountain Church of God, South Mountain, Pennsylvania. Evangelist Bill Rice writes: "An old friend of mine, James Reese, is pastor of this wonderful church.

"South Mountain is so-named because it is situated on top of a mountain. During the revival snow and ice blocked many of the roads, and yet the services were blessed with a splendid attendance and wonderful results. There were 28 conversions and 6 rededications besides 41 young people who dedicated themselves to the service of Christ, and there were about 190 other decisions on the part of Christians to forsake some sin in their lives."

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST JIMMIE THRELFALL** conducted a wonderful revival campaign with the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church of Sunbury, Pennsylvania. Brother E. W. Bean is pastor of this fine church. The pastor, incidentally, had done good preparatory work, and many of the people were praying and working previous to the opening night. There were 32 conversions and 10 rededications, and at least 2 families to begin daily worship in the home.

(Associate Editor Bill Rice has followed Evangelist Jimmie Threlfall in two revival campaigns this year, and says in both instances

Threlfall had done a lasting and outstanding work in these churches.)

The First Baptist Church of Mt. Sterling, Illinois, Rev. Norman Ferguson, pastor, had a glorious two-weeks' meeting with Sword of the Lord evangelist **J. OSCAR WELLS** of Bethany, Oklahoma, from February 22 to March 7. Although it snowed and caused many of the people to be snowbound in the country, the attendance held up, and several nights the building was packed, according to the pastor's report. The pastor wrote: "The last week children's rallies were conducted after school, and 72 children accepted Christ as their Saviour. Many of them belonged to a church, but did not know what it meant to be born again. Sunday School attendance was the highest in the history of the church. There were 87 first-time decisions for Christ, and 55 rededications."

"Souls are being saved, homes are becoming unanimously Christian, lives are being rededicated, re-committed and reclaimed to God's service and usefulness. People are finding peace and happiness," we read of **EVANGELIST LOUIS WUNNEBURGER** in the daily Southern Illinoisan. This is the third revival engagement by the evangelist in the First Baptist Church, Herrin, Illinois. Rev. W. A. Shoopman, pastor. We have a report on the first half of the revival: 92 had taken Christ as Saviour, of which 56 of them had already been baptized during the revival. Blessings, on you, Brother Wunneburger! His address: P. O. Box 510, Austin, Texas.

EVANGELIST HOMER BRITTON, 500 Portview Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee, held an 11-day revival at Moore Avenue Baptist Church, Anniston, Alabama, which closed February 28. The Pastor, Rev. Horace E. Homesley, writes: "We had some 44 decisions—most of them were first-time decisions for Christ. Families were saved; men and their wives were saved." The church has invited the evangelist for another later campaign.

February 28, Sword Staff evangelist **LLOYD BARDOWELL** closed his second successive campaign in the Gethsemane Methodist Church in Reliance, Delaware. Rev. Milton Milliner, pastor. During the two-week campaign, the crowds were good, revival interests high. The evangelist writes that there were 91 saved. (Seventy-seven were saved in the prison camp, fourteen in the church). Other rededications were made. Brother Bardowell says: "This pastor and his wife have taken it upon themselves to send yearly subscriptions of THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every family in the church. It was good to see the effect THE SWORD is having upon the lives of the people."

EVANGELIST PHIL SHULER, 1395 Mechillinda, Pasadena, California, was the recent evangelist at First Bible Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas. Rev. Doyle B. Hopper, pastor. The pastor writes that 60 souls were saved, of which many were added to the church. He further states: "I am a Baptist. Phil is a Methodist. I would recommend him to any Baptist church I know. He preaches the old-fashioned Gospel of Christ with power and never fails to glorify Christ with the results."

Phil is the youngest son of Dr. Bob Shuler, defender of the old-time Methodist faith, who was for 33 years pastor of the great Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles.

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Noteworthy NEWS Notes

Zondervan Moves to New Location

The Zondervan Publishing House has moved its plant to a new location in the city of Grand Rapids. Formerly located in the northwest part of the city, the new Zondervan plant is located in a southeastern residential area, at the corner of Robinson Road and Lake Drive. Now, for the first time in many years, all departments of the Publishing House will be housed under one roof, occupying the first three floors and the basement of the Grand Rapids Storage Building. It has been announced that the move was made with the understanding that if further space is required the fourth and fifth floors of the building will be available.

The new location of the Zondervan Publishing House is considered to be ideally suited for a company with the sacred profession of religious book publishing. The residential area in which the Publish-



P. J. Zondervan

ing House will now be located is one of the outstanding communities in the Grand Rapids area.

The Publishing House has been operating under crowded conditions for several years and the need for more working area has been pronounced. Moving to the new location will make approximately twice as much cubic footage available. In all, the Publishing House will be using 75,000 square feet of space with an option to take over the fourth and fifth floors which will give approximately 50,000 more square feet of area.

At the present time, the Zondervan Publishing House employs 115 persons in its various departments. It is estimated that moving to this new location will increase the efficiency of this group of employees immeasurably.

The Publishers Weekly announced that the Zondervan Publishing House put out more new titles in 1953 than did any other religious book publisher. In all, during 1953, some 96 new titles were released. All books published by the Zondervan Publishing House are strictly evangelical and Gospel-centered in their interpretations of the Bible.

The Zondervan Publishing House began its ministry in September of 1931 in the back bedroom of



B. D. Zondervan

the Zondervan farmhouse in Grandville, Michigan, eight miles southwest of Grand Rapids. Then, in 1932, a small store building was rented and the Zondervans were in business in earnest. Thus, 1954 is the 24th year of the Zondervan Publishing House. This new expansion



New Zondervan Publishing House

program coincides with the addition of the complete Singspiration line of Song and Chorus books and records to the Zondervan line of publications. Beginning February 1, 1954, the Zondervan Publishing House has been responsible for the production and exclusive worldwide distribution of the Singspiration line of records (of which over 200,000 were sold in 1953) and Song and Chorus books (which, incidentally, sold over one half million copies in 1953).

Zondervan Announces "Favorite Story Contest"

The Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, has announced a new short story contest open to everyone with the exception of employees. Following are the rules governing the contest:

1. All stories submitted should be slanted toward the 12 and 13 year age group.
2. The stories should either appeal to girl or boy readers.
3. All stories should have the evangelical and fundamental Gospel approach and appeal, without being "preachy."
4. The stories should have a minimum word length of 500 words and a maximum of 1,000.
5. The closing date for the contest is October 31, 1954.
6. Payment will be at the rate of 2c per word, payable on publication.

"It's Not Over In Formosa"

During 1950 and 1951 the name "Formosa" continually appeared in Christian magazines. The Christian world was alert to the fact that this was a God-prepared harvest field. It will interest you to know that there is no slacking of the harvest.

For eighty years the Canadian and English Presbyterians were the only missionary groups on the island. Today, 306 evangelical mis-

sionaries representing some 37 groups, co-labor with the national Christians in proclaiming the Gospel, gathering a harvest, and building the body of Christ. One of these new organizations is a young faith mission called Orient Crusades. This mission works as a service organization to existing missions and national churches through the medium of evangelism. Reports now show 115,000 seekers in the Bible study and Scripture Memory Course. Many of the 14,000 graduates of the course have become real witnesses and personal workers. The wave of evangelism that began in 1951 had become a tidal wave sweeping the island. An average of two new churches a week are being built on this small island with a total population of only eight million people.

Survey Shows Danger In Mixed Marriages

Cincinnati, Ohio, (E/P)—In a syndicated newspaper column Dr. Paul Popenoe reported in the Cincinnati "Times-Star" that data from 4,108 marriages showed the danger of unhappiness (Continued on page 9)

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HELP US REHABILITATE KOREANS

THREE YEARS of exploding shells, incendiary bombs, and the vandalism that accompanies war have left Korea a shambles. Schools, hospitals, public buildings, homes, roads, bridges must be rebuilt. Lives, too, shattered by war, must be rebuilt.

The Pocket Testament League's intensive campaign of evangelism and Scripture distribution is playing a vitally important role in Korea's rehabilitation program. Koreans are finding a sure foundation upon which they can build for time and eternity. The hope, comfort and security of salvation through Christ gives these weary, heart-sick people a peace that nothing else can bring.

ALFRED A. KUNZ, Executive Director

The Pocket Testament League
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THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

The editor has recently (February 22-25) spoken on the Minnesota Fundamentals Bible Conference program at Minneapolis; at Downer's Grove, Illinois (March 8); at Hutchinson, Kansas, Youth for Christ; Sterling, Kansas, Menno-nite Church; Newton, Kansas, in City Auditorium; and Whitewater, Kansas, in a high school auditorium (March 13, 14). Ere this reaches readers, we will have returned for the fourteenth time (March 18-21) to Evansville Rescue Mission.

While this paper is en route to you, I will be in the Annual Bible Conference at Bob Jones University, March 29-April 4.

Other Speaking Dates Coming Soon

The editor has the following engagements coming soon:

April 11-18, revival at Calvary Baptist Church, Muskegon, Michigan.

April 23 at 6:00 p.m., the annual banquet of the Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, Akron, Ohio.

April 25-May 2, annual Tri-State Bible Conference at Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

May 5, 6, at Texas State Meeting of the World Baptist Fellowship, Lubbock, Texas.

Will readers please pray for the editor in these engagements, that multitudes may be blessed?

Plan Summer Vacations Now

Let me list Bible conference programs in the summer in which the editor will be speaking.

June 14-20, at the Working Conference, Bill Rice Ranch, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. (The working Conference will continue a second full week.)

Sword of the Lord Conference on Revival and Soul Winning, Lake Arrowhead, near Binghamton, New York, June 28-July 4. Speakers: Evangelist Hugh Pyle, Evangelist Joe Miller, and John R. Rice. Musicians: Rev. and Mrs. Warren Steward.

Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning, Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, July 4-10. Speakers: Drs. Lee Roberson, Monroe Parker, G. B. Vick, Evangelists Bill Rice, Hugh Pyle, and John R. Rice.

Sword Practical Christian Life Conference, Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, July 11-16. Speakers: Evangelists Hugh Pyle, Bill Rice, John R. Rice, and others. Special music, classes on teaching children, on Gospel song leading, Gospel piano playing, young people's problems, how to prepare sermons and Bible studies, etc. Special music.

Summer school for preachers at Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, July 20-30.

Annual Bible Conference and Camp Meeting, Mennonite Brethren in Christ at Allentown, Pennsylvania, July 31-August 8.

Bible Conference, Sandy Cove, Maryland, August 9-15.

Central Manor Camp Meeting and Bible Conference, Mountville, Pennsylvania, August 22-29.

These conferences would be ideal for a real Christian vacation, a spiritual rejuvenation. Plan now!

Four Per cent Interest on Loans

A long-time friend of THE SWORD OF THE LORD lent to us \$10,000. Now with a serious break in health, he asked that the loan be repaid. We did so. That means that we can accept other loans now to take its place. We need to raise investment capital; meantime, we will pay four per cent per annum, payable each six months, interest on loans of \$500 to \$10,000. Immediately upon receipt of the money, we send you a note for the amount, made out according to your instructions, made by the Sword of the Lord Foundation, signed by the president and treasurer, and sealed with the Foundation seal. Interest is paid promptly, as are the loans themselves when due. A good chance to serve the Lord with

your money and have a good return on the money. Address John R. Rice, president, Sword of the Lord Foundation, Wheaton, Illinois.

We Still Need a Printer!

Does God have some consecrated printer who would like to spend his life as a missionary printer, getting out the Gospel? We need a good printer, familiar with offset presses and printing routine, able to figure a job. We need a man who really means business about serving Christ with the same unselfish attitude about hard work, moderate pay, and sacrificial service that every missionary and every good preacher must have.

If God is speaking to you about helping the Sword of the Lord as a full-time missionary printer, please write the Sword of the Lord editor, Wheaton, Illinois.

Regular Giving Does It!

We cannot maintain a big campaign in the Sword of the Lord

for the building fund. August 1 we must pay \$44,000 balance on the property purchased in Wheaton as site for a Sword office building. We paid \$5,000 last fall, \$17,000 January 1, and now the balance must be paid August 1, \$44,000. We hope thousands of friends will send an offering once a month to the Sword Building Fund and make the payment possible.

Do you have a package of envelopes in a lovely, handy stand-up desk calendar? We will be glad to send this calendar pack of envelopes, self-addressed to the Sword of the Lord, needing no stamp, which you can use month by month after you use each monthly calendar. You will like it. It is convenient, handy. Just ask for the calendar pack of envelopes.

For Easter

The Editor's 60-page pamphlet, "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ," is ideal for study, for sermon preparations, for Sunday School teaching at Eastertime. Price, 50c.

Evangelist Joe Miller Available June, July, August

By the Editor

Eight or nine years ago a strong minister, college graduate, pastor, got a burning desire to be an evangelist. He attended the Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning at Winona Lake, took THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and wrote the editor, asking how to get into evangelistic work. God wonderfully opened doors and blessed him. Now for a number of years he has been doing an outstanding work as an evangelist in Pennsylvania.

Each year he speaks on the program of the Central Manor Camp Meeting, along with this editor and others. I was so much impressed with his pungent preaching, his soul-winning zeal, his grip on the Word of God, and the power of his ministry, that I asked him to join the Sword Staff of Evangelists. He has not felt led to do so.

However, at my request he has offered to work three months—June, July, and August—as an evangelist, working with the Sword of the Lord, and is reserving those months for us. I think that his schedule for the summer will soon be filled, and that I do a real favor to pastors, or groups of pastors, to acquaint them with the ministry of this Spirit-filled soul winner. I think so much of his ministry that I would be so glad if he could move to Wheaton and spend his life as an evangelist officially connected with THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

Widely Commended by Responsible, Spiritual Pastors and Christian Leaders

It is very impressive to see how Bible-believing pastors trust Brother Joe Miller and call him again and again for return revival engagements to their churches. I share with you here a letter by Rev. Wilmer R. Weaver, pastor of the Church of God, Washington Boro, Pennsylvania. Brother Weaver is spiritual director of the Central Manor Camp Meeting and Bible Conference, one of the most influential men in fundamental ranks in his part of Pennsylvania. He has had Brother Miller in twelve revival campaigns! That is an indication of the spiritual, steady and powerful ministry of Brother Joe Miller. Now read Brother Weaver's letter.

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"It is with pleasure that I recommend Evangelist Joseph Miller to you. I have personally known Joe for many years, and have found him to be true to the Saviour and the blessed Gospel that he so sincerely preaches.

"He is a fundamentalist, a separated, clean Christian and soul winner. Joe is a persistent and tireless worker who considers rebuffs only as a challenge to lead him to improve his ministry of soul winning.

"Joe has held twelve meetings in our church here at the Boro, and we have invited him to return for another meeting.

"He is a graduate of Findlay



Evangelist Joe Miller

College, Findlay, Ohio, with an A.B. Degree, and served two pastorates in the East Pennsylvania Eldership of the Church of God of North America until he entered the evangelistic work.

"You will, I feel sure, find many occasions to consider yourself fortunate if you engage Evangelist Miller with your staff.

"Should there be any question on your mind about Brother Miller that I in any way could be of help to you, please feel free to ask me.

"Praying God's richest blessing upon you and your work,
"Yours in Him"

(Signed) W. R. Weaver
Another good pastor, Dr. George D. Beckwith, author of *God's Prophetic Plan*, writes us as follows:

"It is my privilege to say a word concerning Rev. Joe Miller. I have known Rev. Miller for several years, and have been greatly impressed by his ministry.

"Rev. Miller, as a young man of experience, has committed himself to the work of an evangelist. God has given him a rich voice, a pleasing, happy personality, and a deep understanding of the Word of God. He has a burning passion for the salvation of lost souls.

"Joe speaks with conviction and enthusiasm because he believes the truth of the Word of God. Under his ministry souls are being saved and Christians are being strengthened in the faith.

"Joe preaches Christ in simplicity and in power. Large audiences attend his services. He is a definite blessing wherever he goes.

"In His name,"

(Signed) George Beckwith

Doctrinal Position the Same as THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Evangelist Joe Miller is widely used in churches of different denominations. He loves God's people, but has very clear convictions of Gospel truth. His under-

Methodist Pastor Grateful For Expose of Ferre

A New York state Methodist pastor whose name we do not feel free to call, wrote the following kindly letter:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I am a Methodist supply pas-

standing of the Scriptures places him right alongside THE SWORD OF THE LORD in doctrine. He says a strong, clear word for the inspiration of the Bible, blood atonement, salvation by faith in Christ, the virgin birth and bodily resurrection of Christ, Christ's premillennial second coming. He takes a strong stand against worldliness and sin. We especially recommend him to churches friendly toward our clear-cut stand on doctrine, principles and methods.

Brother Miller has had many hundreds of converts. It has pleased this editor to hear, again and again, of revival series in which there were fifty or seventy conversions, led by this good man.

Brother Miller will be speaking, along with this editor and Evangelist Hugh Pyle, at Lake Arrowhead Bible Conference, nine miles south of Binghamton, New York, the last of the week, June 28 to July 4. For campaigns in June, July, or August, please write Evangelist Joe Miller, Maple Avenue, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, or simply address Editor John R. Rice, Wheaton, Illinois. Pastors with good opportunities should write soon, before his time is all taken.

tor. I've been taking THE SWORD OF THE LORD for some time. I (Continued on page 7)

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Share YOUR Sword

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

We have just received a very interesting letter from one of our Bob Jones University graduates to which we wish to call your attention. This letter is interesting because it shows what Bob Jones University does for its students, and it shows what demand there is throughout the country for the type of Christian leaders that we are training in this University. Note what this man says:

"I was one of your preacher boys who graduated in 1951. I just want to take this opportunity of thanking you for the blessings we received while in Bob Jones University. It was not only the academic instruction, but the vast amount of 'backbone' and 'finish the job' philosophy from the chapel hour that has been my stay through the past two years.

"I have been in the pastorate just eighteen months now. When I was called to this church, they already had a Christian Day School connected with it. While at the University, I also received my teaching credentials. I stayed at Bob Jones University a year and a half longer to get them. The Lord has now called us to separate the school from the church and to form a larger organization to embrace all fundamental, Bible-believing individuals who are interested in Christian Education in a day school. I have been called to

The outstanding feature of the January Alumni Homecoming at Spring Arbor Junior College, Spring Arbor, Michigan, one of Free Methodism's nine colleges, was the unveiling of the new Memorial Classroom hall, marking the completion of all campus buildings.

The new structure, housing

take over this position of founding and directing this new school. I am writing this letter to ask your prayers and advice.

"We also want to use Bob Jones University graduates as teachers. We especially want someone who is well trained in speech for a speech correction class among our children.

"Dr. Bob, thank you for Bob Jones University. Keep on keeping on. We will see you at the banquet in California on July 8."

From time to time, we are glad to give information to our friends who pray for us and who are helping Bob Jones University financially so they can realize more and more that their money is being well invested. We are looking to you friends who believe the Bible and love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity to help us carry this burden. Remember, we need money for our Student Loan Endowment Fund and for our Missionary Fund, and we also need money for a number of other purposes. Whatever you invest in Bob Jones University will be spent carefully and prayerfully in order to do the most good possible to the most people possible. Thank you and God bless you.

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News Flashes from Christian Schools

By Mrs. Neva Main
Assistant Advertising Manager

eight modern classrooms and counseling offices, is the final link of the front campus academic wall and connects the gymnasium, erected in 1930, with the E. P. Hart Memorial Chapel auditorium, which was dedicated in 1951.

Dr. Culbertson, President of Chicago's *Moody Bible Institute* announces six weeks of summer school again this year. Students may attend one or both of the three-week sessions, June 21 to July 9 and July 12 to 30. Some of the subjects offered include: The Life of Christ; Missions; Creative Arts and Crafts; Public Speaking; The Pre-Christian Era; Theology; Bible Synthesis and Analysis; Advanced Teacher Training; Counseling Young People; English; History of the Reformation; History of Revival; Homiletics and Practical Evangelism.

"Since tuition is taken care of by the donations of Christians all over the country, and because the subjects are wide and varied with excellent teachers, we are expecting hundreds to avail themselves of this opportunity," said Dr. S. Maxwell Coder, Dean of Education.

The new nurses training course at *Fort Wayne Bible College* aims to prepare Christian young women for ministering to spiritual and physical needs on mission fields. The program is a combination of Bible, missionary and nurses training that leads to the Bachelor of Science degree in Missionary Nursing Service. The course operates in cooperation with the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in Fort Wayne, and is accredited by the Indiana State Board of Examination and Registration. The first year is spent at the college as a full-time student; the next three years are spent at the Hospital taking the regular course in nursing; for the fifth year, the student returns to the school for advanced work in Bible and missionary courses. Fort Wayne Bible College is a co-educational, theological institution which operates inter-denominationally.

The Flying Seminar to Palestine and the Near East has become a regular department of *Winona Lake School of Theology*, Winona Lake, Indiana. Already, more than a hundred persons have availed themselves of this unusual "School of the Sky," and a goodly portion of these have earned credits at the same time. The Flying Seminar dates for 1954 are July 24 to August 28.

The Board of Trustees of *Gordon College*, Boston, Massachusetts, announces, through President T. Leonard Lewis, the appointment of Philip D. Chamberlain to the newly created position of Director of Public Relations and Promotion. A native of Cambridge, the new director received his B. S. degree from Wheaton College, and his B. D. degree from Gordon Divinity School. Full-time duties were assumed the first of January.

The request of Providence Bible Institute to change its corporate name to *Providence-Barrington Bible College* has been granted by the State Board of Education and duly filed with the Secretary of State. This change was requested following action taken on January 16, 1954, by the school's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Howard W. Ferrin, President of the Institute said there are several reasons for this change of name: 1. In 1950 its four-year college program was recognized by the State Department of Education and degree-granting privileges were approved by the Director, Dr. Michael F. Walsh. 2. The curricula of the school has been expanded so that a student might receive a well-rounded Biblical and general education which qualifies him to receive the Bachelor of

God Ever Cares

J. D. Smith

God ever cares! Not only in life's summer,
When skies are bright and days are long and glad;
He cares as much when life is draped in winter,
And heart doth feel bereft, and lone, and sad.

God ever cares! His heart is ever tender;
His love doth never fail nor show decay;
The loves of earth, though strong and deep, may perish—
But His shall never, never pass away.

God ever cares! And thus when life is lonely,
When blessings one time prized are growing dim,—
The heart may find a sweet and sunny shelter,—
A refuge and a resting-place in Him.

God ever cares! And time can never change Him;—
His nature is to care, and love, and bless;
And drearest, darkest, emptiest days afford Him
But means to make more sweet His own caress.

Hugh Pyle Comes to Sword

(Continued from page 1)

many converts, has led the church in building a new church building. I find that he is greatly loved by his people and is doing a growing, happy work.

I believe Brother Pyle is a trustee of Tennessee Temple Schools, he is in strong demand for revival campaigns. He has held a good many revival campaigns, with blessed results, in Florida and neighboring states. Although comparatively a young man, Brother Pyle is wise, is filled with the Spirit, is a strong preacher, has a gift for building the work of God.

Two years ago I felt impressed to ask Brother Pyle to come and be my assistant in the promotion of the work of evangelism and of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. He and I feel that God has steadily led this way. Now we thank God he is coming.

Brother Pyle will hold revival campaigns, will speak at revival conferences, will help to promote revival work over the nation, and in general be a trusted assistant and fellow-worker. He will move

to Wheaton in the next few months, God willing.

Brother Pyle will be speaking, along with me and Evangelist Joe Miller, with musical help of Rev. and Mrs. Warren Steward, in the Conference on Revival and Soul Winning at Lake Arrowhead, nine miles south of Binghamton, New York, the week of June 28 through July 4.

He will also be speaking a few times in the big Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning July 4-10 at Lake Louise, and will speak, God willing, daily in the second big Practical Christian Life Conference, which will follow, at Lake Louise, July 11-16.

Pastors who want a good revival campaign, or committees who want a good cooperative revival campaign will be interested in the fine work of this anointed and brilliant young man of God. Mail will reach him addressed to The Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

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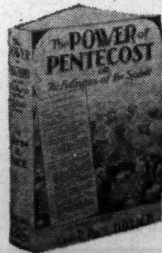
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Arts degree with first major in Bible and a choice of second major. 3. Indications are that post-graduate institutions are recognizing the collegiate level of the work done at Providence.

A second campus was purchased at Barrington, Rhode Island, in 1950, and since the school operates on two campuses, it seems best that it should bear the name of both in the corporate title—Providence-Barrington Bible College—which is descriptive of the college and of the character of its curricula.

The 21st annual *Taylor University* Youth Conference, scheduled for April 2-4, 1954, will be based on the theme, "Time for Christ." Young people from several states come together then for inspiring messages, worthwhile discussion and Christian fellowship. Anyone interested in obtaining more information or registration blanks may contact Joe Kerlin, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.

Taylor University also announces the authorization of a film on the life of Sammy Morris, the Spirit-led African boy, to be produced by Missions Visualized, Inc. The film is not intended to be promotional, but will bring the story of the "Angel in Ebony" to a wider audience than has yet been possible.

The entire history of *Toccoa Falls Institute and Bible College* is a revelation of God's faithfulness since it was started in 1911 with a vision and a \$10 bill. This small investment has now grown to a half-million dollars. During the first years it was a question of "survival"; then there were many trying times during the period of expansion when they "fought the good fight of faith"; now the school has reached the place of "approval." The students have a wonderful opportunity for practical training. Upwards of 2,000 young children and young people are contacted every week by gos-


pel messages and Bible teaching. President R. A. Forrest writes, "We are constantly getting reports from churches throughout America and the mission fields throughout the world of the progress being made by our young people and 'the much fruit that shall remain' from their services."

Dr. Thomas Moseley, President of *The Missionary Training Institute* of Nyack, New York, announces that the school has acquired a \$470,000 library and administration building at a cost of \$75,000. The building, beautiful "Sky Island," is a palatial stone structure built in 1931. It is located on a 12-acre estate adjoining the northwest corner of the present campus. Just 24 miles from the heart of New York City, "Nyack's" rolling woodlands look down on the majestic Hudson River at its widest point.

The Missionary Training Institute, known the world over as "Nyack," was America's first Bible school. It was founded in 1882. It is one of four Bible schools operated by the Christian and Missionary Alliance. "Nyack" is one of the largest theological schools in the East, with a faculty of 31 and a student body of over 500. Students come from 34 states and several foreign countries.

The Missionary Training Institute has over ten thousand alumni, scattered throughout most of the countries in the world. They serve some 35 Protestant denominations.

Mr. George A. Miles, President of the *Washington Bible Institute* of Washington, D. C., left from Washington National Airport on February 2nd on a round-the-world survey of Christian missions. The major portion of his time abroad will be devoted to special evangelistic work with The Pocket Testament League in Formosa, Japan and Korea, where Mr. Miles will take part in PTL's campaigns of Scripture distribution and mass evangelism.



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Billy Graham Opens In London

(Continued from page 1)

was perfect. Mr. Barrows is a most accomplished leader of massed choirs, and we have never heard a congregation sing the old hymns with more fervour and expression.

Promptly at 7:30 the choir began the service with Neander's stately hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (No. 1 in the Crusade Song Book), sung to the familiar German tune. Then Dr.

F. Townley Lord, president of the Baptist World Alliance, who is giving enthusiastic support to Dr. Graham, invoked the divine blessing on the Crusade in a few worshipful sentences, after which the whole assembly joined fervently in the singing of "All hail the power of Jesus' name." It probably surprised many to find prominence given to the grand old hymns.

American Senators

Dr. Graham announced that two United States senators were present and he briefly introduced them as representative of the many Christian men in Congress. One was Senator Styles Bridges, of New Hampshire (a Republican) and the other Senator Stuart Symington (a Democrat).

The latter referred to a meeting for Bible study and prayer held by Congressmen every Wednesday morning. At one held a few weeks ago President Eisenhower was present and Dr. Graham was there also by invitation. Mr. Symington added that he knew of no one in the United States who was held in greater respect than Dr. Graham.

After choir and congregation had sung "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah" to *Cum Rhonda*, Dr. Grady Wilson, the Associate Evangelist, read 2 Chronicles 7:12-16. Rev. A. Goodwin Hudson offered a brief prayer, and Mr. George Beverly Shea in his rich bass-baritone voice sang "My Lord has garments so wondrous fair" (No. 103 in the Crusade Song Book).



Left to right: Grady Wilson (Associate evangelist), Billy Graham, Cliff Barrows (song leader).

Mr. Barrows stated that numerous telegrams and cabled messages had arrived, India and Korea being among the places named. In India 35,000 men were pledged to prayer for London, and similar assurances had come from all over the world. He gave details of various subsidiary meetings for ministers and other Christian believers, and also evangelistic efforts held at the lunch hour and at other times in Central and West London.

General D. J. Wilson-Haffenden, chairman of the Executive Committee, appealed to autograph hunters not to waylay members of the team, and then welcomed Billy Graham and his colleagues to London. He stressed the fact that they were here by invitation of their British friends, and he believed great blessing would result.

life were not preserved. Immorality abounded and similar evils.

The preacher went on to ask whether God mattered in regard to our philosophical problems. We needed to know where we came from. Life was mysterious, and certainly death was a mystery, if these things were not related to God. Further, we needed to face the question whether God mattered in our personal problems. Did we have regard to Him in the matter of our money, or in the conduct of our business? Did we believe that God was really interested in us personally, or was our thought of Him as of One remote in space from daily life?

Biblical Revelation

Coming to the Biblical revelation, Dr. Graham said that first we beheld Him as the God of creation. God created man; we did not come from "a muttering monkey." It was a wonderful thought that all that we could see through a microscope or a telescope represented His creative activity. As the God who created all things, He also sees all things. He sees into our homes, into our factories, into our lives—not one single thing escapes His observation.

Next, we see Him revealed in the Word as all powerful. Again, He is everywhere present in His universe. The Psalmist asked, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." Men could not hide from His all-seeing eye.

Further, the Bible declared that with God there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Men change, their fashions change, even their languages undergo change, but God remains the unchangeable. The One who appeared among men nearly two thousand years ago in Galilee manifesting the love of God, touching the eyes of the blind and raising the dead, is the same in His dealing with us to-day. The God who hated pride and bigotry, hates them still.

The Bible also reveals that God is holy. Throughout the Old Testament God is depicted as the holy and righteous One, of purer eyes than to behold evil. No unclean thing would ever enter heaven. Here came a warning to his hearers, "Before you can get there your sins must be washed away in the precious blood of the Lamb."

The Love of God

Finally, Dr. Graham declared that the Bible sets before us a God who is love. "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Making a direct appeal, he said, "God loves you, whoever you are and wherever you are; whatever your past may be, you cannot go out of this hall without the assurance of that pursuing love."

In an hour of peril men often called upon God. Only the previous day a man had said to him: "I was in North Africa during the war, and in the thick of the battle men in their fear called upon God."

We believe in God not just because He made a thousand dazzling worlds, but because He has

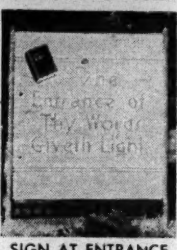
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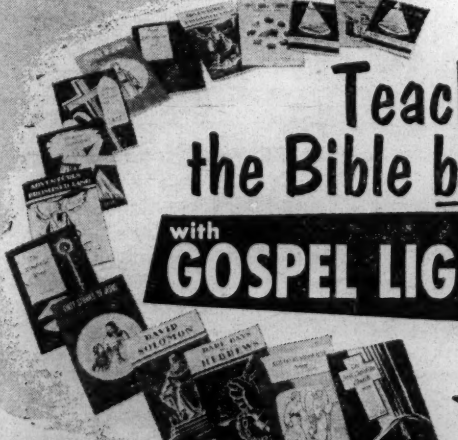
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Methodist Pastor . . .

(Continued from page 5)

thoroughly enjoy its messages, its exposing of error and its statement of fundamental truth. I've sent in 33 subscriptions out of a promise of 50.

"In two recent issues you have printed an expose of Dr. Nels F. S. Ferre's book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*, and I want to express my appreciation of your article. Praise God for your faithfulness in presenting the truth.

"In the last *Christian Advocate*, the Methodist denominational paper, I read a page which contained a list of books of 'Choice Lenten Reading,' and the list was compiled by Dr. Ferre and included his own, *The Sun and the Umbrella*.

"Yesterday I sent a strongly-worded protest to the *Christian Advocate* for printing the advice of this Methodist infidel. I don't know what the reaction will be, but I'm glad for your expose—and the feeling of strength and courage it gave me to express by protest to the 'powers that be.'

"May you continue to present the truth to the people. I'm glad to say that most of my congregation receives your paper.

"The Lord bless you abundantly at this season of the year."
(Signed) E—D

Forgiveness

A Scottish physician was noted for his skill and piety. After his death when his books were examined, several accounts had written across them in red ink, "Forgiven . . . too poor to pay."

His wife, who was of a different disposition, said: "These accounts must be paid." She therefore sued for the money.

The judge asked her, "Is this your husband's handwriting in red ink?" She replied in the affirmative. "Then," said he, "there's not a tribunal in the land that can obtain the money where he has written, 'Forgiven.'"

So likewise when Jesus writes the word "forgiven" across our account in the ledger of Heaven, we are released from condemnation.

—Baptist Bulletin Service

My quarrel with the modern church is that it is devoting all its energies to an attempt to get the prodigal a better job in the far country; but that it leaves him in the far country.—T. T. Shields.

The Opening Address

Dr. Graham announced that he would be preaching on John 3:16 all this week, and on this evening would be dealing with the two opening words, "For God." The great message of this verse was addressed to Nicodemus who came to Christ by night. There were many in Jerusalem who were said to have "believed in his name when they saw the miracles which he did," but John was careful to add that Jesus did not commit Himself unto them. He knew the secret motives in their heart.

Some time ago a journalist had written a book with the title, "Does God Matter?" First, asked Dr. Graham, "What idea of God have we?" Do we think of Him as one with "a big stick"? He went on to ask whether men thought that God mattered in international affairs, in what was happening in Indo-China and in Kenya. Did men relate God to our social problems, to our racial problems, or to domestic affairs? We were reaching the point when one marriage in three seemed likely to end in the divorce court. No nation could be strong if home

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Billy Graham Opens In London

(Continued from page 7)

revealed Himself in the Bible. Illustrating the fact that men have lost contact with their Maker, Dr. Graham related a personal experience when he was travelling in a plane in British Columbia. When they were about 16,000 feet over the Rocky Mountains and everything below was enveloped in fog and snow, he learned from a member of the crew that the radio had given out and the navigator had lost contact with the ground. The plane circled round and round while the crew worked frantically to restore communication. Eventually the plane was safely landed. But, declared Dr. Graham: "some of you are going round and round aimlessly in your lives because you have lost contact with God."

"That alienation" he continued, "began in the garden of Eden—I believe every word of that story." When men lost fellowship, death came and the moral law was broken, and the consequences of sin passed to all men. Some might object, "but that is not fair." "However," went on the preacher, "we are often involved in what others do, whether we like it or not." Young men were sent to the battle front in Korea; they were involved in the consequences of what others did.

The practical question was, "How can I regain contact with God?" Christ gave the answer when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Every cross on a Church reminded us that Jesus died in our stead, as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. God says: "Trust Him and you will be saved." As far as the East is from the West so far would He remove our transgression from us and give us a joy and a peace such as we had never known, and the assurance of heaven. There was no way in which we could get to know God Himself apart from the Lord Jesus.

In his final appeal Dr. Graham told how he had seen the power of Christ in the salvation and transformation of alcoholics, prostitutes, and sinners of all kinds. His assurance, however, rested even more upon his own experience of saving grace. "I wish I



George Beverly Shea,
Soloist in Billy Graham Campaigns

were more Christlike," he said, "but I know He lives in my heart."

Dr. Graham then made a brief appeal to those who wished to accept Christ to raise a hand, and subsequently to come forward. As they did so counsellors joined the many who filed into the enquiry room, where over 150 people were dealt with.

As the crowds left the Arena in a snowstorm, by private and public transport, many groups could be heard singing, while at the nearby tube station a great throng waiting for trains, sang hymns and choruses.

Tuesday's Meeting

Snow continued to fall during the night. We naturally wondered how icy conditions on many roads, especially in the outlying areas would affect the Tuesday attendances. How many were deterred from making the journey to Harringay it is impossible to say. There were, however, fully 10,000 present which, in the circumstances, is a remarkable indication of the serious interest taken in the Crusade, especially by Christian workers.

When Mr. Cliff Barrows took his place on the rostrum a thousand and choir members were ready to lead the praise. It did one's heart good to hear the magnificent singing of such favourites as "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine," "I Love to Tell the Story," and especially Charles Wesley's immortal hymn, "And Can It Be." Mr. Lindsay Glegg led in the opening prayer, Dr. Grady Wilson read Psalm 23, after which the Bishop of Barking prayed. Mr. Beverly Shea sang two solos, and Mr. Carlton Booth one. There was also a trumpet solo by Mr. Howard Jones. Dr. Graham referred to the tragic affair in the United States House of Representatives, and asked Dr. Paul Rees to pray for the two Congressmen whose lives were in the balance, one of whom Dr. Graham knows well.

Continuing his messages on our Lord's interview with Nicodemus, Dr. Graham dealt with the story of the Brazen Serpent, mentioned in John 3:14. The children of Israel, he declared, did not like the road God had marked out for them through the wilderness. It was the same to-day. The root of all the world's troubles was that men wanted to go their own way instead of God's way. The preacher then applied the lesson to his hearers. God wants us to pray daily, but we don't do it; He wants us to read the Bible daily, but we neglect it; He wants people to unite in the fellowship of the Church but we stay away.

In the wilderness the Israelites complained about the food God gave them, though Dr. Graham suggested that manna from heaven was preferable to the best hotel meals. It was possible for people to be amply supplied with this

world's comforts, yet to be discontented and sick at heart. Americans, the best fed people in the world, often complain about food. He knew of men in luxurious homes in Hollywood who were inwardly wretched, and the reason was that they did not possess the peace Christ alone could give them. Millionaires were often sad when Christians with meagre resources were happy.

Referring to the fiery serpents, Dr. Graham affirmed that sin always brought judgment. The venom of these serpents was like a burning river of fire. Serpents in Scripture were a type of sin and of Satan. We are all infected with sin from the beginning. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Christ is that glory and standard. The problem to-day centered not in racial issues or in economics; the basic problem was sin.

Christ is the One, Dr. Graham went on, who can solve every problem. He can soothe our sorrows. He can restore the shattered harmony of our lives. The Son of Man lifted up on the cross brings life and healing. Man might disbelieve it, as Dr. Graham confessed, he himself did once; but Christ met him seventeen years ago, and completely changed him.

The preacher finished with an appeal, and immediately well over one hundred people of all ages, though mostly young men and women came forward. The most striking thing about Dr. Graham's meetings thus far is the absence of what is usually called "emotionalism," and we have never known an evangelist who was more restrained in his manner of inviting inquirers to come forward. In these matters Dr. Graham has already baffled and confounded those critics who predicted that Londoners were going to be subjected to an "orgy of emotionalism" and all the tricks of the demagogue.

Looking back over the first two days, we can say that the Crusade has begun well. It is unprecedented for an American evangelist to begin a series of campaigns with 10,000 or 12,000 people flocking to hear him on the opening nights. All those intimately associated with the effort are convinced that the result is not due to extensive advertising; it is the spirit of prayer for the campaign in which many thousands are united.

Earlier Contacts

Between his arrival on Wednesday of last week and the opening public meeting on Monday, Dr. Graham had a round of preparatory engagements. On the Thursday he met about a hundred representatives of the Press. There can be no question that his friendly, frank and tactful handling of the conference did much to correct ignorant ideas about the character of the London Crusade, and about Dr. Graham himself.

On the Friday about eight hundred clergy and ministers were invited to meet Dr. Graham at a luncheon. The whole company were the guests of an anonymous friend of Dr. Graham's in Texas, and it was explained that not one penny of campaign funds was being spent on entertainment. Major-General D. J. Wilson-Haffenden presided, and among the guests was the Bishop of Southwark.

On Friday evening Dr. Graham was the guest at a dinner in the House of Commons arranged by several Members of Parliament with strong Evangelical sympathies. Many members of both Houses and others prominent in public life were present. Dr. Graham, responding to a very cordial introduction by the chairman, the Hon. L. W. Joynson-Hicks, M. P., spoke briefly of the signs of Revival in America, and of his object in accepting the invitation to Britain. Among those who attended the dinner was the Dean of Westminster, Dr. Don, who led the grace.

After meeting the members of the Executive and the Council of Reference at a mid-day function on Saturday, Dr. Graham had a conference with workers in the Crusade on Saturday evening. About 5,000 members of the choir, the stewards, and the counsellors gathered. Dr. Graham impressed upon all the great issues facing a lost world, and the importance of every Christian worker doing his or her part.

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Noteworthy News Notes

(Continued from page 4)

in mixed marriages. Where a Roman Catholic man married a woman of his own church, 4.4 per cent of the marriages ended in divorce; where he married a Protestant wife, 20.6 per cent ended in divorce. When both man and wife were Protestant, 6 per cent ended in divorce. Where neither of any religious affiliation of any kind, 17.6 per cent of the marriages went on the rocks.

Another investigator, Ashley Weeks, studying 6,548 families found the divorce rate among Roman Catholics to be 3.8 per cent; among Protestants, 10 per cent; a percentage of 17.4 in mixed marriages; and 23.9 where there was no religious affiliation. Howard Bell, said Dr. Popenoe, got the same results in an inquiry of 13,528 families in Maryland.

The Percy Crawford Visit to Korea
"Korea is in a miserable condition. It is sad, sick and suffering. It needs the power of Christ and His resurrection." So spoke Dr. Percy Crawford as he left Korea after preaching to thousands of Koreans and G.I.s.

Dr. and Mrs. Crawford and their well-known Youth On The March trio, Steve Musto, Sam Seymour

and Bob Straton, arrived in Korea two days before Christmas to aid in The Pocket Testament League campaign of Scripture distribution and mass evangelization. Donating their time and talents to the work of the Lord and PTL, the Crawford party, accompanied by PTL evangelist Don Robertson, adhered to a gruelling schedule of gospel rallies which took them from the little Isle of Koje on the southern tip of Korea to the "Iron Triangle," 60 miles north of Seoul. They preached and sang to Korean soldiers and civilians and American G.I.s, visiting army bases, hospitals, prisons, churches, front-line artillery units, and jet air bases.

Said Don Robertson, a veteran of the PTL campaign in Korea, "I believe this has been one of the most effective ministries yet in Korea. The singing of the trio seemed to prepare and open the hearts of the men for the Gospel message, the presence of Mrs. Crawford, singing and praying, was a testimony to the men of spiritual grace and purity; and the clear, convincing preaching of Dr. Crawford seemed to grip the men and was the means of pointing them to a living Saviour."

Mr. Alfred A. Kunz, Executive Director of The Pocket Testament League, states: "We of PTL thank the Lord for the unselfish devotion of such Christian leaders as Dr. and Mrs. Crawford, Jack Wyrzten, Winfield Ruelke and others who have gone to Korea at their own expense to aid in the gigantic task of evangelization in that stricken land."

That Quota!

We want hundreds of people to accept a quota of 25, or 50, or 100 subscriptions to be sent in by September 28 at rock-bottom price of \$1.50 each. Please say, "Count on me for _____ subscriptions by September 28." Write John R. Rice, Wheaton, Illinois.

"Ye Are the Branches"

(Continued from page 1)

there ever being soul-weariness or exhaustion, our work would be like a new experience, linking us to Jesus as nothing else can. For, alas! it is not often true that our work comes between us and Jesus? What folly! The very work that He has to do in me, and I for Him, I take up in such a way that it separates me from Christ. Many a laborer in the vineyard has complained that he has too much work, and not time for close communion with Jesus, and that his usual work weakens his inclination for prayer, and that his too much intercourse with men darkens the spiritual life. Sad thought, that the bearing of fruit should separate the branch from the vine! That must be, because we have looked upon our work as something else than the branch bearing fruit. May God deliver us from every false thought about the Christian life.

Now, just a few thoughts about THIS BLESSED BRANCH-LIFE.

In the first place, it is

A Life of Absolute Dependence

The branch has nothing; it just depends upon the vine for everything. That word *absolute dependence* is one of the most solemn and large and precious of words. A great German theologian wrote two large volumes some years ago to show that the whole of Calvin's theology is summed up in that one principle of *absolute dependence upon God*; and he was right. Another great writer has said that *absolute, unalterable dependence upon God alone* is the essence of the religion of angels, and should be that of men also. God is everything to the angels, and He is willing to be everything to the Christian. If I can learn every moment of the day to depend upon God, everything will come right. You will get the higher life if you depend absolutely upon God.

Now, here we find it with the vine and the branches. Every vine you ever see, or every bunch of grapes that comes upon your table, let it remind you that the branch is absolutely dependent on the vine. The vine has to do the work, and the branch enjoys the fruit of it.

What has the vine to do? It has to do a great work. It has to send its roots out into the soil and hunt under the ground—the roots often extend a long way out—for nourishment, and to drink in the moisture. Put certain elements of man-

ure in certain directions, and the vine sends its roots there, and then in its roots or stems, it turns the moisture and manure into that special sap which is to make the fruit that is borne. The vine does the work, and the branch has just to receive from the vine the sap, which is changed into grapes. I have been told that at Hampton Court, London, there is a vine that sometimes bore a couple of thousand bunches of grapes, and people were astonished at its large growth and rich fruitage. Afterwards it was discovered what was the cause of it. Not so very far away runs the River Thames, and the vine had stretched its roots away hundreds of yards under the ground, until it had come to the river-side, and there in all the rich slime of the riverbed it had found rich nourishment, and obtained moisture; and the roots had drawn the sap all that distance up and up into the vine, and as a result there was the abundant and rich harvest. The vine had the work to do, and the branches had just to depend upon the vine, and receive what it gave.

Is that literally true of my Lord Jesus? Must I understand that when I have to work, when I have to preach a sermon, or address a Bible class, or to go out and visit the poor neglected ones, that all the responsibility of the work is on Christ?

That is exactly what Christ wants you to understand. Christ wants that in all your work, the very foundation should be the simple, blessed consciousness: Christ must care for all.

And how does He fulfill the trust of that dependence? He does it by sending down the Holy Spirit—not now and then only as a special gift, for remember the relation between the vine and the branches is such that hourly, daily, unceasingly there is the living connection maintained. The sap does not flow for a time, and then stop, and then flow again, but from moment to moment the sap flows from the vine to the branches. And just so, my Lord Jesus wants me to take that blessed position as a worker, and morning by morning and day by day and hour by hour and step by step (in every work I have to go out to), just to abide before Him in the simple utter helplessness of one who knows nothing, and is nothing, and can do nothing. Oh, beloved workers, study that word *nothing*. You sometimes sing: "Oh to be nothing,

nothing"; but have you really studied that word, and prayed every day, and worshiped God, in the light of it? Do you know the blessedness of that word *nothing*?

If I am something, then God is not everything; but when I become *nothing*, God can become *all*, and the everlasting God in Christ can reveal Himself fully. That is the higher life. We need to become nothing. Someone has well said that the seraphim and cherubim are flames of fire because they know they are nothing, and they allow God to put His fullness and His glory and brightness into them. They are nothing, and God is all in them and around them. Oh, become nothing in deep reality, and, as a worker, study only one thing—to become poorer and lower and more helpless, that Christ may work all in you.

Workers, here is your first lesson: learn to be nothing, learn to be helpless. The man who has got something is not absolutely dependent; but the man who has got nothing is absolutely dependent. *Absolute dependence upon God is the secret of all power in work.* The branch has nothing but what it gets from the vine, and you and I can have nothing but what we get from Jesus.

But secondly, the life of the branch is not only a life of entire dependence, but of

Deep Restfulness

Oh, that little branch, if it could think, and if it could feel, and if it could speak—that branch away in Hampton Court vine, or on some of the million vines that we have in South Africa, in our sunny land—if we could have a little branch here today to talk to us, and if we could say: "Come, branch of the vine, I want to learn from thee how I can be a true branch of the living Vine," what would it answer? The little branch would whisper:

"Man, I hear that you are wise, and I know that you can do a great many wonderful things. I know you have much strength and wisdom given to you, but I have one lesson for you. With all your hurry and effort in Christ's work you never prosper. The first thing you need is to come and rest in your Lord Jesus. That is what I do. Since I grew out of that vine, I have spent years and years, and all I have done is just to rest in the vine. When the time of spring came, I had no anxious thought

(Continued on page 10)

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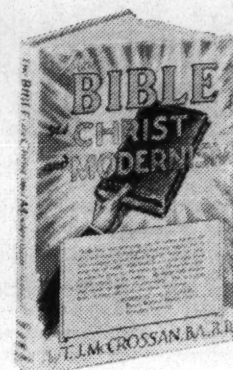
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"Ye Are The Branches"

(Continued from page 9)

or care. The vine began to pour its sap into me, and to give the bud and leaf. And when the time of summer came I had no care, and in the great heat I trusted the vine to bring moisture to keep me fresh. And in the time of harvest, when the owner came to pluck the grapes, I had no care. If there was anything in the grapes not good, the owner never blamed the branch; the blame was always on the vine. And if you would be a true branch of Christ, the living Vine, just rest on Him. Let Christ bear the responsibility.

You say: "Won't that make me slothful?"

I tell you it will not. No one who learns to rest upon the living Christ can become slothful, for the closer your contact with Christ, the more of the Spirit of His zeal and love will be borne in upon you. But oh, begin to work in the midst of your entire dependence by adding to that, *deep restfulness*. A man sometimes tries and tries to be dependent upon Christ, but he worries himself about this absolute dependence; he tries and he cannot get it. But let him sink down into entire restfulness every day.

*In Thy strong hand I lay me down.
So shall the work be done;
For who can work so wondrously
As the Almighty One?*

Worker, take your place every day at the feet of Jesus, in the blessed peace and rest that come from the knowledge—

*I have no care, my cares are His;
I have no fear, He cares for all my fears.*

Come, children of God, and understand that it is the Lord Jesus who wants to work through you. You complain of the want of fervent love. It will come from Jesus. He will give the divine love in your heart with which you can

love people. That is the meaning of the assurance: "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit"; and of that other word: "The love of Christ constraineth us." Christ can give you a fountain of love, so that you cannot help loving the most wretched and the most ungrateful, or those who have wearied you hitherto. Rest in Christ, who can give wisdom and strength, and you do not know how that restfulness will often prove to be the very best part of your message. You plead with people and you argue, and they get the idea: "There is a man arguing and striving with me." They only feel: "Here are two men dealing with each other." But if you will let the deep rest of God come over you, the rest in Christ Jesus, the peace and rest and holiness of Heaven, that restfulness will bring a blessing to the heart, even more than the words you speak.

But a third thought: The branch teaches a lesson of

Much Fruitfulness

You know the Lord Jesus repeated that word *fruit* often in that parable. He spoke, first, of *fruit*, and then of *more fruit*, and then of *much fruit*. Yes, you are ordained not only to bear fruit, but to bear *much fruit*. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit." In the first place, Christ said: "I am the Vine, and my Father is the Husbandman. My Father is the Husbandman who has charge of me and you." He who will watch over the connection between Christ and the branches is God; and it is in the power of God through Christ we are to bear fruit.

Oh Christians, you know this world is perishing for the want of workers. And it wants not only more workers. The workers are saying, some more earnestly than others: "We need not only more workers, but we need that our workers should have a new power, a different life; that we workers should be able to bring more blessing." Children of God, I appeal to you. You know what trouble you take, say in a case of sickness. You have a beloved friend apparently in danger of death, and nothing can refresh that friend so much as a few grapes, and they are out of season; but what trouble you will take to get the grapes that are to be the nourishment of this dying friend! And oh, there are around you people who never go to church, and so many who go to church—but do not know Christ! And yet the heavenly grapes, the grapes of Eshcol, the grapes of the heavenly Vine, are not to be had at any price, except as the child of God bears them out of his inner life in fellowship with Christ. Except the children of God are filled with the sap of the heavenly Vine, except they are filled with the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus, they cannot bear much of the real heavenly grape. We all confess there is a great deal of work, a great deal of preaching and teaching and visiting, a great deal of machinery, a great deal of earnest effort of every kind; but there is not much manifestation of the power of God in it.

What is wanting? There is wanting the close connection between the worker and the heavenly Vine. Christ, the heavenly Vine, has blessings that He could pour on tens of thousands who are perishing. Christ, the heavenly Vine, has power to provide the heavenly grapes. But "Ye are the branches," and you cannot bear heavenly fruit unless you are in close connection with Jesus Christ.

Do not confound *work* and *fruit*. There may be a good deal of work for Christ that is not the fruit of the heavenly Vine. Do not seek for work only. Oh! study this question of fruit-bearing. It means the very life, and the very power, and the very spirit and the very love within the heart of the Son of God—it means the heavenly Vine Himself coming into your heart and mine.

You know there are different sorts of grapes, each with a different name, and every vine provides exactly that peculiar aroma and juice which gives the grape its particular flavor and taste. Just so, there is in the heart of Christ Jesus a life, and a love, and a Spirit, and a blessing, and a power for men, that are entirely heavenly



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THIS WEEK'S ILLUSTRATIONS and QUOTES

TIME IS AN EDUCATION FOR ETERNITY;—

"GETTING GOD'S EAR"

Lucky Baldwin, famous prison chaplain, got his first drink when he and some other waifs stole a keg of beer.

With a few rare exceptions, he was from then on constantly intoxicated until the day he wobbled into a mission and yelled "Give 'em a ring, an' tell 'em I'm coming!" He thought the mission superintendent, who wore a hearing aid, was using "the royal telephone." And perhaps he was, for that night "Lucky" heard God's call and accepted Christ.

—KEN ANDERSON in *Sunday*

"WHAT WILL NOT BEAR TO BE PUT BEFORE THE EYE OF GOD SHOULD NOT BE PUT BEFORE THE EYE OF MEN."

—The Lookout

NOTHING HID FROM GOD

The General Electric Company has a new pickup apparatus that requires no dictaphone in a room, but can pick up conversations inside a building up to a distance of three miles. A small sensitive device is merely attached to a building, and the distance apparatus beamed toward it, with the result that every sound is recorded. Yet some people seem to doubt the Bible teaching that the thoughts and intents of men's hearts are open to the Almighty!

—Prophecy Monthly

MOST PEOPLE ARE BOTHERED BY THOSE PASSAGES IN SCRIPTURE WHICH THEY CANNOT UNDERSTAND; BUT AS FOR ME, I ALWAYS NOTICED THAT THE PASSAGES IN SCRIPTURE WHICH TROUBLE ME MOST ARE THOSE WHICH I DO UNDERSTAND.

—MARK TWAIN

LEMON DIET

"Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad." (Acts 11:23). Charles Alexander, when a student at Moody Bible Institute, got to wondering whether it was right for an earnest Christian to be so gay. He tells of the way in which Moody, gathering students around him for a confidential talk, noticed that many of us were wearing long faces. "I am quite sure I was one of them, for I had been studying that sentence in the New Testament where it says, that 'every idle word shall be accounted for.' I had usually been of a lively disposition, trying to cheer the fellow who was down-hearted, but when I began to study that verse I thought I was wrong. I had been trying to get my face so that no smile would ever come upon it. In one of these sane morning talks, Mr. Moody spoke about that verse. Looking up with such a bright, happy look, he said, 'Young men, do not think that the teaching of this verse means that you shall go around with a long face, and never have a happy word for anyone. A cheerful word is not an idle one.' From that time onward, Alexander enjoyed the perfect freedom which makes for unrestrained delight of service.

—From "Charles M. Alexander, in Romance of Song and Soul-Winning."

(From the book of 95 pages, DRIFTWOOD. Price, paper binding, \$1. Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

and divine, and that will come down into our hearts. Stand in close connection with the heavenly Vine and say:

"Lord Jesus, nothing less than the sap that flows through Thyself, nothing less than the Spirit of Thy divine life is what we ask. Lord Jesus, I pray Thee, let Thy Spirit flow through me in all my work for Thee."

I tell you again that the sap of the heavenly Vine is nothing but the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the life of the heavenly Vine, and what you must get from Christ is nothing less than a strong inflow of the Holy Spirit. You need it exceedingly, and you want nothing more than that. Remember that. Do not expect Christ to give a bit of strength here, and a bit of blessing yonder, and a bit of help over there. As the vine does its work in giving its own peculiar sap to the branch, so expect Christ to give His own Holy Spirit into your heart, and then you will bear much fruit. And if you have only begun to bear fruit, and are listening to the word of Christ in the parable, "more fruit," "much fruit," remember that in order that you should bear more fruit, you just require more of Jesus in your life and heart.

We ministers of the Gospel, how we are in danger of getting into a condition of *work, work, work!* And we pray over it, but the freshness and buoyancy and joy of the heavenly life are not always present. Let us seek to understand that the life of the branch is a life of much fruit, because it is a life rooted in Christ, the living, heavenly Vine.

A fourth thought: The life of the branch is

A Life of Close Communion

Let us again ask: What has the branch to do? You know that precious, inexhaustible word that Christ used, *abide*. Your life is to be an abiding life. And how is the abiding to be? It is to be just like the branch in the vine, abiding every minute of the day. There are the branches, in close communion, in unbroken communion, with the vine, from January to December. And cannot I live every day—it is to me an almost terrible thing that we should ask the question—cannot I live in abiding communion with the heavenly Vine?

You say: "But I am so much occupied with other things."

You may have ten hours' hard work daily, during which your brain has to be occupied with temporal things; God orders it so. But the abiding work is, the work of the heart, not of the brain, the work of the heart clinging to and resting in Jesus, a work in which the Holy Spirit links us to Christ Jesus. Oh, do believe that deeper down than the brain, deep down in the inner life, you can abide in Christ, so that every moment you are free, the consciousness will come:

"Blessed Jesus, I am still in Thee."

If you will learn for a time to put aside other work and to get into this abiding contact with the heavenly Vine, you will find that fruit will come.

What is the application to our life of this abiding communion? What does it mean?

It means close fellowship with Christ in secret prayer. I am sure there are Christians who do long for the higher life, and who some-

(Continued on page 11)

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"Ye Are The Branches"

(Continued from page 10)

times have got a great blessing, and have at times found a great inflow of heavenly joy and a great outflow of heavenly gladness; and yet after a time it has passed away. They have not understood that close personal actual communion with Christ is an absolute necessity for daily life. Take time to be alone with Christ. Nothing in Heaven or earth can free you from the necessity for that, if you are to be happy and holy Christians.

Oh! how many Christians look upon it as a burden and a tax, and a duty, and a difficulty to get much alone with God! That is the great hindrance to our Christian life everywhere. We want more quiet fellowship with God, and I tell you in the name of the heavenly Vine that you cannot be healthy branches, branches into which the heavenly sap can flow, unless you take plenty of time for communion with God. If you are not willing to sacrifice time to get alone with Him, and to give Him time every day to work in you, and to keep up the link of connection between you and Himself, He cannot give you that blessing of His unbroken fellowship. Jesus

Christ asks you to live in close communion with Him. Let every heart say: "Oh Christ, it is this I long for, it is this I choose!" And He will gladly give it you.

And then my last thought: The life of the branch is

A Life of Absolute Surrender

This word, absolute surrender, is a great and solemn word, and I believe we do not understand its meaning. But yet the little branch preaches it.

"Have you anything to do, little branch, besides bearing grapes?"

"No, nothing."

"Are you fit for nothing?"

Fit for nothing! The Bible says that a bit of vine cannot even be used as a pen; it is fit for nothing but to be burned.

"And now, what do you understand, little branch, about your relation to the vine?"

"My relation is just this: I am utterly given up to the vine, and the vine can give me as much or as little sap as it chooses. Here I am at its disposal and the vine can do with me what it likes."

Oh, friends, we want this absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. The more I speak, the more I feel that this is one of the most difficult points to make clear, and one of the most important and needful points to explain—what this absolute surrender is. It is often an easy thing for a man or a number of men to come out and offer themselves up to God for entire consecration, and to say: "Lord, it is my desire to give up myself entirely to Thee." That is of great value, and often brings very rich blessing. But the one question I ought to study quietly is:

What Is Meant By Absolute Surrender?

It means that just as literally as Christ was given up entirely to God, I am given up entirely to Christ. Is that too strong? Some think so. Some think that never can be; that just as entirely and absolutely as Christ gave up His life to do nothing but seek the Father's pleasure, and depend on the Father absolutely and entirely, I am to do nothing but to seek the pleasure of Christ. But that is actually true. Christ Jesus came to breathe His own Spirit into us, to make us find our very highest happiness in living entirely for God, just as He did. Oh, beloved brethren, if that is the case, then I ought to say:

"Yes, as true as it is of that little branch of the vine, so true, by God's grace, I would have it be

of me. I would live day by day that Christ may be able to do with me what He will."

Ah! here comes the terrible mistake that lies at the bottom of so much of our own religion. A man thinks:

"I have my business and family duties, and my relations as a citizen, and all this I cannot change. And now alongside all this I am to take in religion and the service of God, as something that will keep me from sin. God help me to perform my duties properly!"

That is not right. When Christ came, He came and bought the sinner with His blood. If there was a slave market here, and I were to buy a slave, I should take that slave away to my own house from his old surroundings; and he would live at my house as my personal property, and I could order him about all the day. And if he were a faithful slave, he would live as having no will and no interests of his own, his one care being to promote the well-being and honor of his master. And in like manner I, who have been bought with the blood of Christ, have been bought to live every day with the one thought—how can I please my Master?

Oh, we find the Christian life so difficult because we seek for God's blessing, while we live in our own will. We should be glad to live the Christian life according to our own liking. We make our own plans and choose our own work, and then we ask the Lord Jesus to come in and take care that sin shall not conquer us too much, and that we shall not go too far wrong; we ask Him to come in and give us so much of His blessing. But our relation to Jesus ought to be such that we are entirely at His disposal, and every-day come to Him humbly and straightforwardly and say:

"Lord, is there anything in me that is not according to Thy will, that has not been ordered by Thee, or that is not entirely given up to Thee?"

Oh, if we would wait and wait patiently, I tell you what the result would be! There would spring up a relationship between us and Christ so close and so tender that we should afterwards be amazed at how we formerly could have lived with the idea: "I am surrendered to Christ." We should feel how far distant our intercourse with Him had previously been, and that He can, and does indeed, come and take actual possession of us, and gives unbroken fellowship all the day. The branch calls us to absolute surrender.

I do not speak now so much about the giving up of sins. There are people who need that, people who have got violent tempers, bad habits, and actual sins, which they from time to time commit—and which they have never given up into the very bosom of the Lamb of God. I pray you, if you are branches of the living Vine, do not keep one sin back. I know there are a great many difficulties about this question of holiness; I know that all do not think exactly the same with regard to it. That would be to me a matter of comparative indifference if I could see that all are honestly longing to be free from every sin. But I am afraid that unconsciously there are in hearts often compromises with the idea that we cannot be without sin, we must sin a little everyday; we cannot help it. Oh that people would actually cry to God!—"Lord, do keep me from sin!" Give yourself utterly to Jesus, and ask Him to do His very utmost for you in keeping you from sin.

There is a great deal in our work, in our church and our surroundings that we found in the world when we were born into it; and it has grown all around us, and we think that it is all right, it cannot be changed. We do not come to the Lord Jesus and ask Him about it. Oh! I advise you, Christians, bring everything into relationship with Jesus, and say:

"Lord, everything in my life has to be in most complete harmony with my position as a branch of Thee, the blessed Vine."

Let your surrender to Christ be absolute. I do not understand that word *surrender* fully; it gets new meanings every now and then; it enlarges immensely from time to time. But I advise you to speak it out; "Absolute surrender to Thee, O Christ, is what I have chosen."

Vengeance Belongs To God

(Continued from page 1)

1. The relationship of a believer to his heavenly Father (Rom. 12: 1,2). This is a relationship of consecration and full surrender.

2. The relationship of a believer to service (Rom. 12:3-8). The gist of this passage is that a believer is to serve God with all his heart with whatever ability God has given him, whether it be large or small.

3. The relationship of a believer to other believers (Rom. 12:9-16). This is to be a relationship of love and kind affection toward God's children everywhere. Oh, how much could be said on this subject!

4. The relationship of a believer to all men everywhere, saved or lost (Rom. 12:17-21).

These verses show that God's child is not to try to "get even" when wronged or persecuted. This is hard to live up to! God says, "Recompense to no man for evil." He says, "Vengeance is mine." Here God is saying that something belongs exclusively to Him. "Vengeance is mine, it belongs to me!" Would you steal a man's wife, or home, or automobile? Oh no, perish the thought. Well then, don't steal from God something

And Christ will show you what is not according to His mind, and lead you on to deeper and higher blessedness.

In conclusion, let me gather up all in one word. Christ Jesus said: "I am the vine, ye are the branches." In other words: "I, the living One who has so completely given myself to you, am the Vine. You cannot trust me too much. I am the Almighty Worker, full of a divine life and power." You are the branches of the Lord Jesus Christ. If there is in your heart the consciousness that you are not a strong, healthy, fruit-bearing branch, not closely linked with Jesus, not living in Him as you should be—then listen to Him saying: "I am the Vine, I will receive you, I will draw you to myself, I will bless you, I will strengthen you, I will fill you with my Spirit. I, the Vine, have taken you to be my branches; I have given myself utterly to you. Children, give yourselves utterly to me. I have surrendered myself as God absolutely to you; I became man and died for you that I might be entirely yours. Come and surrender yourselves entirely to be mine."

What shall our answer be? Oh, let it be a prayer from the depths of our heart, that the living Christ may take each one of us and link us close to Himself. Let our prayer be that He, the living Vine, shall so link each of us to Himself that we shall go away with our hearts singing: "He is my Vine, and I am His branch—I want nothing more!"—now I have the everlasting Vine." Then, when you get alone with Him, worship and adore Him, praise and trust Him, love Him and wait for His love. "Thou art my Vine, and I am Thy branch. It is enough; my soul is satisfied." Glory to His blessed name!

(From the book, **ABSOLUTE SURRENDER**, from the Moody Colportage Series, 35c. Used by permission.)

which He says is His exclusively.

Vengeance upon evil doers, whether they be saved or unsaved, does not belong to you but belongs to God. Such terms as "I'll get even," or "I'll make him wish he hadn't," should never be in the vocabulary of a Christian. Leave the vengeance to God. He knows all the facts and evidence; He is impartial and He alone knows the motives of men's hearts. In His own time He will render a decision and repay men for their wrong doing.

Observe several facts which are obvious in these verses:

I. God's People Are to Expect Persecution And Are to Suffer It Without Complaint

Jesus taught that the believer would be hated by the world:

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.—John 15:18-21.

Paul taught that "all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12).

Jesus set forth an example as to how Christians are to suffer:

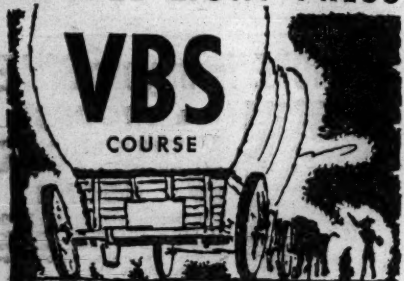
"For this is thankful, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously"—I Pet. 2:19-23.

When He was reviled, He reviled not again! Think of it: He refused to retaliate. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter but He OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH. The test of the depth and sincerity of a man's spirituality is: How does he act when he is mistreated or lied about? Does he whine to the high heavens? Or does he take it like Jesus did?

Recently I read where a man visited a great slaughterhouse and made a striking observation. He said he heard in a certain place some awful noises—screaming and crying and shrieking. He went in that direction and found it was where the pigs were being butchered. It was a bedlam of noise. Then he went into another department very unexpectedly and

(Continued on page 12)

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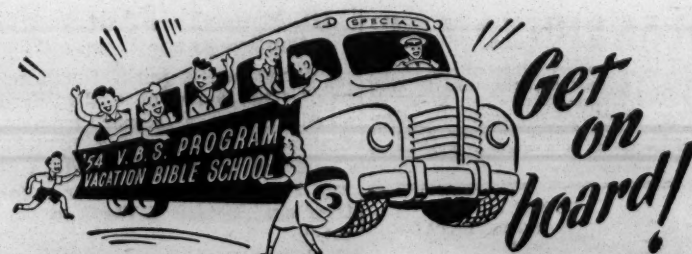
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Vengeance Belongs To God

(Continued from page 11)

found that there they were butchering the sheep. All was quiet; there was no shrieking or crying. Sheep suffer differently from hogs!

God's people are to take suffering and persecution as sheep, not as hogs. This is not man's reasoning. It is God's Word and God's way.

I was raised in rural North Alabama where the law of the "survival of the strongest" was in effect. But that is not God's law. The most humble, the sweetest spirited will survive in the work of the Lord. Preachers and workers who base their ministry on fighting and smearing will soon wear out and pass on. To suffer as a real Christian will not make you a weakling. It will make you strong and big like Moses and Daniel and Job and Paul! In history, all men who have undertaken to do a holy work, a work that would save and elevate humanity and alleviate human suffering and misery have met with conflict and persecution; and so will the soul winner!

George Fox was mobbed and stoned in London. John Wesley often received a barrage of stones and rotten eggs! The test of your love for Jesus is not, "Can you dish it out?" but "Can you take it?" Can you suffer? Make up your mind before you ever decide to be a preacher or do any type of work for Jesus and for men's souls that you will have to pay a price.

II. The Avenging Is to Be Left With God

One of the sweetest joys on earth in the life of a child of God is to convert a would-be enemy into a friend. This can sometimes be done when we follow God's method of suffering with patience.

A Chinese emperor pardoned a large number of rebels, and when his counsellors objected, saying he had promised to destroy all his enemies, he replied, "Have I not done so? These men are now my friends. They are no longer enemies."

God says, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves." He says, "I will repay." God never lets sin go unnoticed. He always deals with it in His time. He never forgets an unconfessed sin. Notice what Jesus said in Luke 18:

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man: Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you, that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man

cometh shall he find faith on the earth?"—Luke 18:1-8.

Now here is a poor widow who has been wronged. She comes to the judge and says, "Avenge me of my adversary." She admits that it is not her prerogative to avenge herself. "You are the judge, you have the authority and power, now you punish this party who has done wrong toward me." This judge was a wicked man. He feared not God and had absolutely no respect for men, yet he took care of the woman's case. He avenged her of her adversary. He punished the evildoer.

Jesus taught in substance: If an unjust and evil judge would avenge a poor woman and punish the wicked, will not the holy God of Heaven do likewise? Jesus said, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you he will avenge them speedily!" Oh, how dangerous it is to lift a hand or launch a verbal attack against one of God's elect! God will not let it pass by. Jesus said, "I tell you, God will avenge his elect." Do you believe this? The Bible is a commentary on this awful truth.

In Revelation 6:10 we hear the cry of the tribulation martyrs: "How long oh Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" These have been killed by Antichrist power in the tribulation and cry out for God to avenge them. Does God answer their request? He most assuredly does. See the answer to their cry in Revelation 19:2. "For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand."

God avenged Abel of the wrong committed against him by Cain. Cain suffered ten thousand deaths as he cried, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." He destroyed Pharaoh as He avenged the Jews against the Egyptians. He avenged Mordecai against wicked Haman as Haman hung high on his own gallows! He avenged David of the wrong suffered at this hands of Saul and then Absalom. God will do right, vengeance belongs to Him. Don't try to take it away from Him. Don't be ashamed when you suffer persecution or wrongdoing. Peter said, "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" (I Pet. 4:16).

Jesus said:

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you"—Matt. 5:10-12.

A Christian may not be happy about his suffering and persecution but he can be happy in them.

III. Notice This Text As It Applies to the Unsaved

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay." This verse of God's Word should make a sinner tremble. God says, "I am going to take vengeance upon sinners and I will pay them what they deserve for their sin." Notice II Thessalonians 1:4-9:

"So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire TAKING VENGEANCE ON THEM THAT KNOW NOT GOD, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the pres-

ence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

See it here—"Taking vengeance on them that know not God." No man is so cunning, so subtle, so brilliant as to be able to sin and get away with it. "Be sure your sin will find you out," says God's Word. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

I read a verse a few days ago in the Old Testament that struck me with tremendous force. "The Lord hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fish hooks" (Amos 4:2). Think of it—God hath sworn, He hath taken an oath by His holiness that He will judge sinners! His holiness is at stake. He must keep His word.

In I Kings 21 there is the awful story of sin and its retribution. Ahab and Jezebel, the king and queen, were the most wicked and godless pair who ever ruled over a kingdom. Ahab was weak and vacillating, given to pouting and complaining, and worst of all, he was henpecked! His wife ran things at his house. This always makes for trouble. He wanted a vineyard hard by the palace which belonged to Naboth. Naboth had it handed down to him from previous generations and didn't want to part with it. He told the king so and the king went to bed and started to cry and complain. But Jezebel devised a wicked scheme to steal the vineyard for her husband. She worked out a careful scheme to murder Naboth and make it look legal. She had him exalted on a certain day, and wicked men were suborned to come suddenly and accuse him of treason to the king and blasphemy toward God. The stage was set and the plan worked: Naboth was murdered and the dogs licked up his blood in the streets.

Jezebel thought of everything except one: she failed to remember that God punishes sin! He sees all we do and never forgets an unconfessed sin.

God sent Elijah with an awful

message of doom and vengeance for Ahab and Jezebel! God said, "In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood" (I Kings 21:19). I doubt whether Ahab and Jezebel really believed this. They probably made a joke of it and had a hearty laugh about the whole thing. It was probably ten or twelve years before this prediction came true and God's awful vengeance fell upon this wicked pair. But chickens always come home to roost! I suppose after two or three years Ahab and Jezebel even quit talking about it. They didn't worry. God had forgotten, probably, or maybe He had changed His mind.

No, God never forgets unconfessed sin. He has sworn by His holiness to punish it. The years drag by and finally Ahab goes to battle against the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead. In I Kings 22, we read how a soldier in that battle just drew his bow and shot an arrow into the air, having no idea where it was going. God knew the destiny of that arrow shot at random. God's hand of vengeance and retribution guided that arrow into the small unprotected spot on Ahab's body, and he was mortally wounded. As his chariot went through the streets of the city, then was washed at the pool, the blood flowed to the street and the dogs licked his blood in the very spot where they licked Naboth's blood years previous. Jezebel also met the same fate. Dogs ate her flesh and licked her blood at the walls of Jezreel just as God said they would.

God never forgets unconfessed sin. He has sworn by His holiness, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."

Now friend, there is one rainbow that can be hung in this dark cloud. Though God never forgets sin unconfessed, He does forgive and forget when the penitent sinner trusts the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb. 10:17).

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."—Prov. 28:13.

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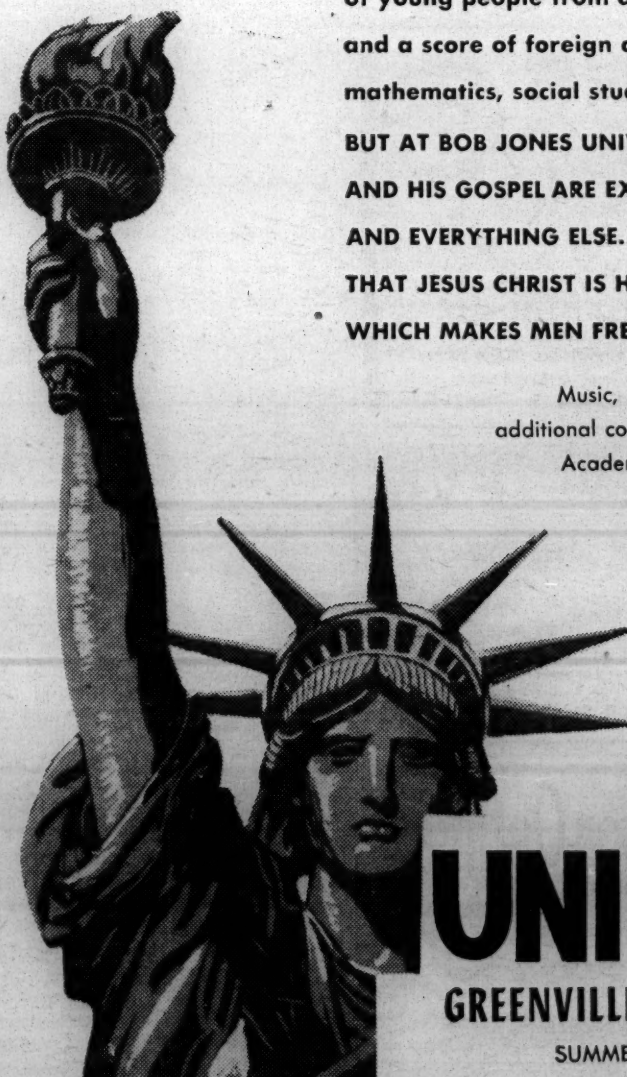
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